

**BIGGEST Issue Ever! ★ Free Poster for Your Room**

# American Girl®

July/August 2004

americangirl.com ★ \$4.95

**23 Ways  
to Get Wet**

**Sip Sweet  
Smoothies**

**Play Our  
Board Game!**

**Make Teeny-Tiny  
Flip-Flops**

**WOW!**  
Decorate your  
sandals, put  
on a play, and  
more!

**It's Our Super Jumbo Issue!**



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## Rainbow of Smoothies

Cool and colorful summer sippers

# 30



## Big Splash!

Great ways to have a blast on hot days

# 12

## See AG online!

Visit [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine! Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.





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## Summer Cents

Take a quiz and find out what type of job is best for you!

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Meredith J.



## Big Hearts, Small World

Meet two girls whose friendship reaches across the globe.

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## About the Cover

Meet Meredith J., age 10. She made quite a splash at our photo shoot! Want to sneak a peek at the making of our first-ever jumbo issue? Go to "Behind the Scenes" on page 73.



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!



# Letter from Us



Dear Readers,

Get ready for **big** fun with our very first **jumbo** issue! **Crazy** ways to get **wet**—yes! Recipes for **cool** treats—you bet! **Quizzes**—got 'em! Cute little **crafts**—check! There are so many **fun** things to do in this issue that it might take you **all** summer to do them.

Don't miss "AG's **Cut-It-Apart, Fold-It-Up, Put-It-Together,** and **Play-with-It** Section" starting on page 55. It has a funny **play** you can put on with your **friends**, fun **pictures** to decorate your scrapbook, a Mini Book of **cheers**, and cute **cootie catchers**!

We want to know what **you** think about this issue. Please write and tell us. Send us your **best** summer ideas, and who knows? You might see them in an upcoming issue.

Have a great summer,

Your friends at *American Girl*

*American Girl*  
magazine  
8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI  
53562

## Reader Surprise

On page 34, you'll read about our newest Reader Surprise contest! It's easy to enter—just send a postcard by August 15 with your first and last name, address, and phone number to:

Reader Surprise—J/A  
*American Girl* magazine  
8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562



## Official Rules

1. Drawing not open to employees of American Girl and its affiliates.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by August 15, 2004. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed.
4. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
5. Void where prohibited by law.

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Winner of a 2002  
Parents' Choice  
Gold Award



The National  
Magazine  
Awards Finalist

*American Girl*



# Girls Express



## Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

## **gargantuan**

**How to say it:** gar-GAN-choo-un

**What it means:** of immense size or volume; gigantic

**Where it comes from:**

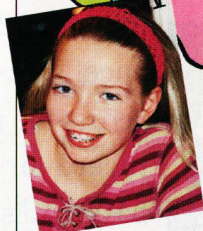
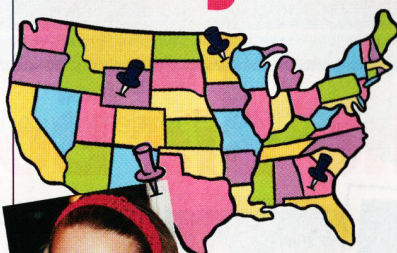
"Gargantua" is the name of the giant hero of an influential French book written in the 1500s.

**One way to use it:** "On the hottest day of summer, Sydney and her friends cooled down by sharing a gargantuan ice cream sundae."



The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? Answer is on page 52.

## Zany Vacation



Eliane C. and her family choose the spot for their annual summer trip in an unusual way. "We blindfold one of my family members," the Maryland 11-year-old explains, "spin that person around, and let her or

him stick a pushpin anywhere at all on a map of the U.S.A." Wherever the pin lands, the family goes!

So far, the map has led Eliane's family to Minnesota and Wyoming, and this summer, Eliane herself pinpointed Georgia as their vacation spot. "Since we've never been there," she says, "I think it will be exciting to go."

Eliane and her family have had some funny experiences on their travels. In Minnesota, Eliane's dad asked a man for directions, and the man turned out to be the editor of the town's newspaper. "My dad told the editor our story, and he liked it so much, he asked to write about our family trip for his paper!" says Eliane.

*In Wyoming*



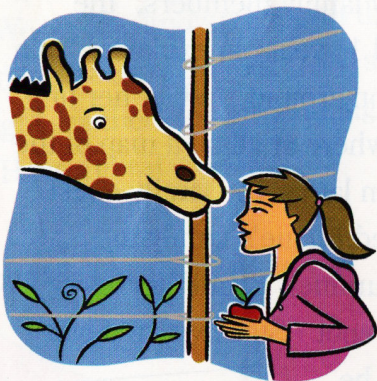




## Shining Star

When Angel A. learned that her city's zoo was having money troubles, she worried about the animals. "They deserve to have a home and to be safe and warm," says the California animal lover who dreams of becoming a zoologist.

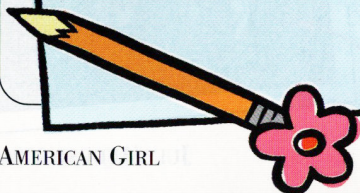
So Angel, 10, wrote to her local paper. Five days later, her letter appeared in print. "I think that if everybody gave a dollar, it would help a lot," she suggested in her letter to the editor. Soon, thousands and thousands of dollars poured in for the zoo from as far away as England! As a special thanks, the zoo gave Angel a behind-the-scenes tour. She even got a kiss from a giraffe!



Angel is surprised, and happy, about what one letter can do. She says, "It's just really big!"

### You can shine, too.

If you see a problem in your town, tell about it in a letter to the newspaper. "Set your mind to it," says Angel, "and one person really can make a difference."



## Today's Specials

Test your food IQ with this quiz. Just match the American food words with the names the same foods are called in countries around the world.

1. eggs and sausages

a. blackers (in Ireland)

2. Popsicles

b. fizzy (in New Zealand)

3. blackberries

c. candy floss (in England)

4. soda pop

d. cackleberries and snorkers (in Australia)

5. cotton candy

e. ice lollies (in England)

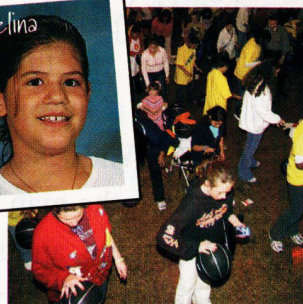
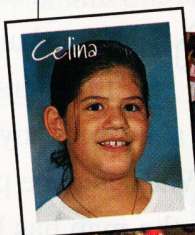
Answers: 1. d, 2. e, 3. a, 4. b, 5. c



## The Big Bounce

Imagine 525 basketballs bouncing all at once! Last October, kids gathered in cities across the nation to try to break the world record for the most people dribbling basketballs at one time. A Chicago group set the new mark by bouncing for five minutes straight.

"I needed to switch hands because my hands got tired," says dribbler Celina T., age 9, "but my dad told me to keep dribbling, and I did!"



Set your own personal record with these basketball challenges:

- Jog around your block while dribbling a basketball. See how many times you can make it around without dropping the ball.
- See how many times you and a friend can bounce-pass a basketball between you without letting the ball get away.
- See how many baskets you can make in two minutes.

For more fun ways to get active, check out [verbnow.com](http://verbnow.com).



# Sole Style

Create standout sandals with summery stickers.

Press cute **stickers** around the sides of **wooden sandals**, such as Dr. Scholl's. Use a **sponge brush** to cover the stickers with two to three light coats of **Mod Podge**. Let the Mod Podge dry between coats.



# True Story

Emilie D. won a grocery store shopping spree!

Dear American Girl,

Last fall, I won a shopping spree in a contest at our local supermarket. The day of the event, we arrived to find newspaper photographers and TV crews waiting to interview us. It was exciting! My mom and I both got to shop for three minutes. I went for ice cream, juices, snacks, and some pillows for my room. My mom chose a whole bunch of meat, some cleaning supplies, and CD headsets to give to my sister Delaney, my brother Joshua, and me. When the clock stopped, the store mascot surprised me by presenting me with a free DVD player!

We had filled six carts and the total equaled \$1,700 instead of the \$300 we were allowed. That's when the store shocked us by giving us everything we had picked out! I guess they knew my mom hasn't worked since Delaney was diagnosed with cancer in June of 2002.

I felt very proud then. It meant so much to me to help my mom and my family while my little sister was fighting her cancer. Delaney has been in remission for a few months and Mom can go back to work this summer. Not to mention that Mom made our favorite dinners with meat in them all winter long!

Sincerely,

Emilie D.  
Age 10, Ohio



# AG POLL

## Your answers:

In our March/April 2004 issue, we asked you what bugs you most about summer. Here are your biggest summer bummer:

mosquitoes: **361**

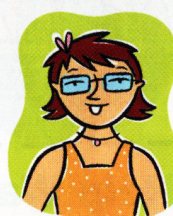
sunburn: **122**

sticking to a hot car seat: **44**

other: **105**

Why are mosquitoes the worst?

"Because no matter where you go or what you do, you can't escape them!" says Megan C., 12, of Tennessee.



## Next question:

Are you a rock 'n' roll girl, or do you like to chill out to country tunes? What kind of music do you like the best? Check your answer.



Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your first and last name, address, and birth date.



## Be a Coaster Pro

Does the thought of riding a roller coaster make your stomach twist? Here's how to ride without getting sick: look forward or in the direction the ride is moving or spinning at all times. When you close your eyes or look backward or to the sides, your brain gets confused about where you are in space, which can send your stomach for a tumble.



## Help Wanted!

We're working on a story about adoption for an upcoming issue. Have you ever wondered what it's like to be adopted? Are there things you'd like to know about being adopted but are afraid to ask? If you're adopted, would you be willing to talk about your experience with *American Girl*? Write to us at the address on page 2 with your questions or to volunteer to answer questions.



# Invent an Event!

*In honor of the summer Olympics, we asked you to create an event you'd be sure to win. Here are some of our funny favorites.*

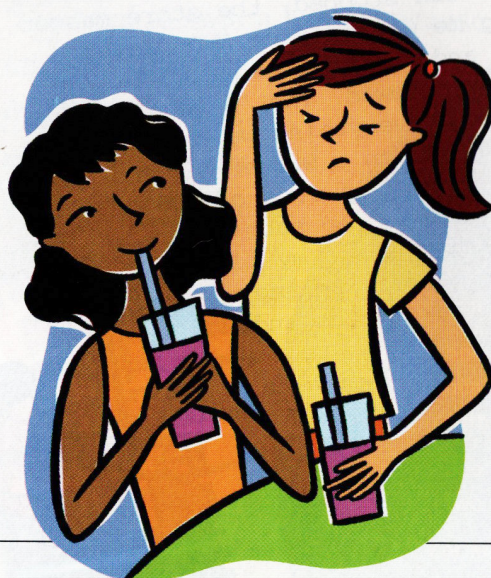


## No Sleep Sheep Count



"This event tests your determination and energy. To win, you have to be the last person to fall asleep while counting sheep. I could win because I don't fall asleep easily."

Katie G.  
Age 14, California



## Brain Freeze Frenzy



"The object of this event is to be the last contestant to get a brain freeze while drinking an ice-cold smoothie."

Justina S.  
Age 12, Wisconsin



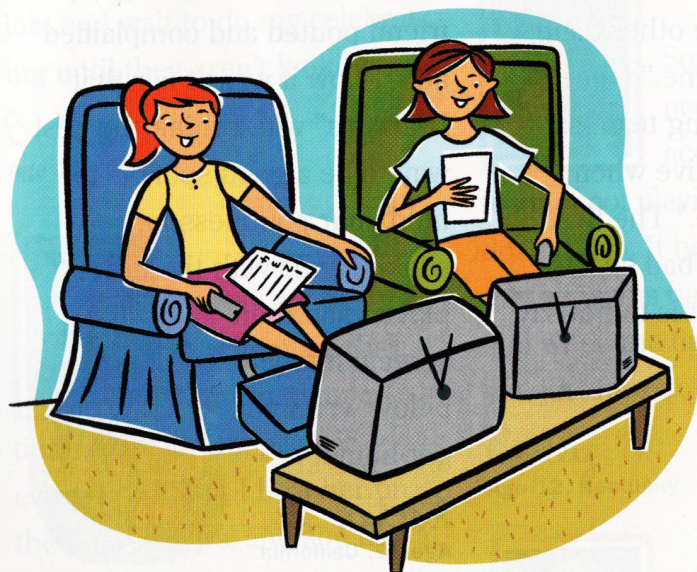


### Present Panic



"In this event, each contestant has to open a stack of presents. Whoever opens her presents first wins—and gets to keep the presents!"

Hannah H.  
Age 10, New York



### Wrinkly Fingers



"Each contestant washes her or his hands for ten minutes. When time is up, the contestants dry their hands and hold up their palms. The person with the most wrinkles wins!"

McKenzie H.  
Age 11, Missouri



### Remote Race



"Contestants sit in recliners with TVs in front of them. Each contestant gets a remote control and a list of channels to click to. The first contestant to click to all the channels on her or his list in the correct order wins the Golden Remote!"

Rebecca H.  
Age 13, New York



### Puppy Kiss Countdown



"You must get as many licks as you can from your dog. Whoever gets the most in one minute wins."

Mackenzie R.  
Age 9, Massachusetts

### New Contest: Design a Hat

Draw a cute or clever cap or hat of any kind, then send your entry to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date.

**Deadline: August 10, 2004.**

Our favorites will appear in the January/February 2005 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.



# Heart to Heart

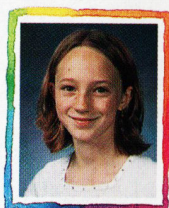
## Good Sports

What does it mean to be a good sport? How do you deal with someone who's a bad sport?



Once, at a swim meet, a girl on the other team called me a bad swimmer. I thought, *I am NOT a bad swimmer!* and I swam really hard. So, if someone puts you down, just think, *I'll show her!* It will make you play harder.

Allison L.  
Age 10, Pennsylvania



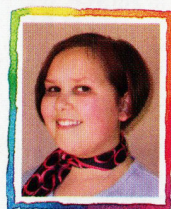
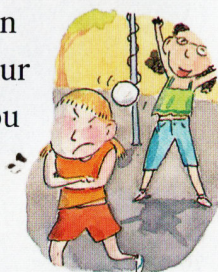
My best sport is basketball. At the end of each game my team plays, we form a line and high-five the other team, saying "good game." Once, a girl on the losing team said something negative when I said "good game." The best way to deal with bad sportsmanship like that is to not say anything back.

Nicole A.  
Age 12, Wisconsin



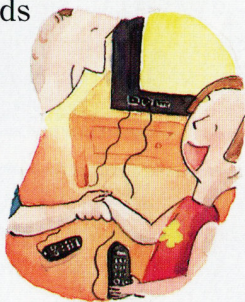
I played a game of tetherball with a friend, and I won. The rest of the day, my friend pouted and complained about how it wasn't fair that I "always" win. I think the best way to be a good sport is to hold your poutiness in, shake hands with the other player, and then scream into your pillow when you get home!

Rachel S.  
Age 12, California



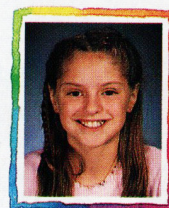
My stepdad and I have fun playing video football together. We're both good sports. After every game, we shake hands to make sure things are cool between the two of us.

Amber P.  
Age 14, Ohio



Before I say something mean to another player, I think, *Is this really going to change whether my team won or lost?* Remember, show your colors but keep your cool.

Clare S.  
Age 12, Indiana



You don't have to be good at sports to be a good sport. Just show respect whether you win or lose.

Emily K.  
Age 11, New York



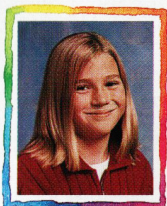


I've seen friends  
get really upset  
about losing and

ruin the game for everyone  
else. It's too bad they take it  
so seriously!

*Olivia M.*

Age 10, Oklahoma



When I win, I  
think of the other  
team's feelings,

tell the players they did a good  
job, and wait to do my celebrat-  
ing until they aren't looking.

*Briana S.*

Age 11, Indiana

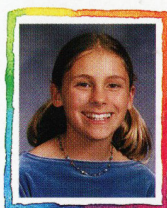


I was competing  
against another  
girl in gymnas-

tics. She won first place in  
every event, but I beat her on  
the uneven bars, and she had a  
fit! She was crying and arguing  
about it. I told her that she did  
a good job. She said that I did  
a good job, too,  
and that she  
was sorry for  
complaining.

*Lauren F.*

Age 12, Michigan

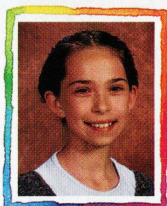


When my soccer  
team won, a girl  
on the other team

spat on her hand before she  
shook hands with us! Another  
girl slapped our hands really  
hard. My team was annoyed,  
and now we  
always make  
sure to be  
good sports.

*Merritt M.*

Age 13, Missouri

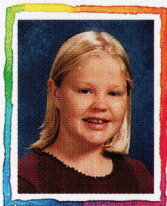


Sometimes when  
people lose, they  
accuse the other

team of not playing fair. I've  
done it, too. It helps me to think  
that all teams have their days,  
and when the day isn't yours,  
you just have to accept it.

*Emily H.*

Age 12, Kentucky



You can be upset  
that you didn't  
win, but don't let

anyone see it. People will want  
to play with you more often if  
you keep a positive attitude.

*Ashley E.*

Age 11, California



Our team hasn't  
been winning a  
lot this season,

so I know what it's like to  
lose—it's not fun. If you smile  
and remind yourself that there  
will be other games and that  
you're doing your best, then  
that's all that counts.

*Dani B.*

Age 11, New York

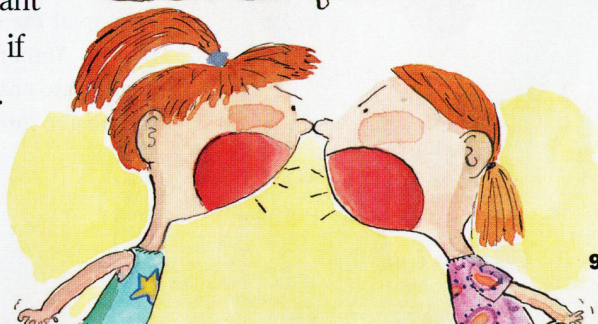
## Speak from Your Heart

**Next subject: Fighting with your  
siblings. Sisters and brothers  
squabble about silly stuff some-  
times. How can you avoid these  
arguments? Is there a way to  
stop them before they start?**

**Send answers, first and last  
name, birth date, and photo to  
the address on page 2.**

**Deadline: August 7, 2004.**

**Some answers will appear in the  
January/February 2005 issue. ★**





# Fun Flip-Flops

Make a pair for yourself and one for a friend!

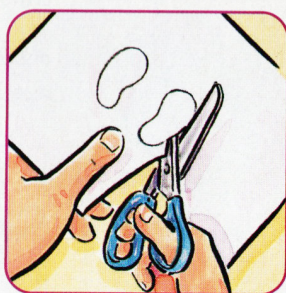
## YOU WILL NEED

For 1 pair



An adult to help you cut the wire

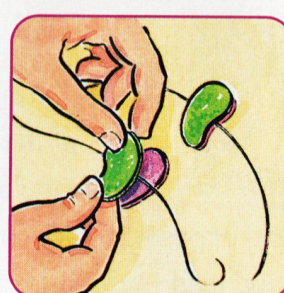
- Sheet of white paper
- Flip-flop sole pattern below
- Marker
- Scissors
- Two sheets of colored self-adhesive craft foam (available at craft stores)
- 2 5-inch pieces of thin wire (26-gauge works well)
- Seed beads
- Needle-nose pliers with wire cutter



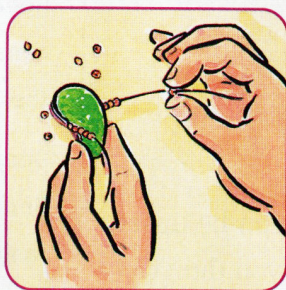
**1** Place paper over the sole patterns shown below, and trace with a marker. Cut out.



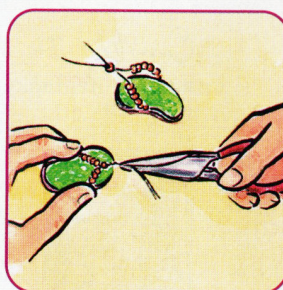
**2** Trace around both sole patterns on 2 different colors of foam. Cut out soles.



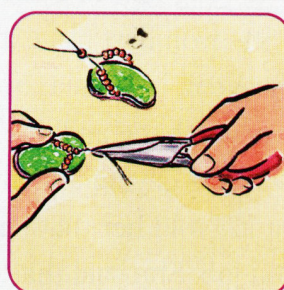
**3** Remove self-adhesive backing from 1 sole bottom. Lay wire piece across the center of the sticky side. Remove self-adhesive backing from matching sole top. Place sticky sides together. Repeat.



**4** Bend the ends of the wire up at the sides of the flip-flop. Thread 9 seed beads onto each end of the wire to form straps.



**5** Thread one seed bead over both ends of the wire. Twist the ends of the wire together using a needle-nose pliers. Bend the wire into an "L" shape.



**6** Ask an adult to snip the remaining wire so that just enough is left to poke through the top layer of foam. Poke the wire through the foam until the last bead is snug against the shoe.

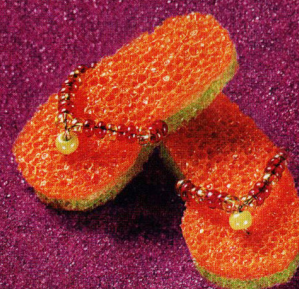


Flip-flop sole patterns





Tie a cord around the flip-flop and charm your friends with a necklace!



Use a larger seed head as a decorative touch on your flip-flop.



Glue a piece of origami paper to the foam for funky flip-flops. ★







Celebrate summer with a



**BIG**  
**Splash!**

Whether you're in the yard or in the pool,

have some fun and stay cool!





## **CANNONBALL!**

Gather a group of friends together and see who can make the biggest splash jumping into the pool!





### **Towel Style**

Have a beach towel fashion show! Take turns using towels to create wacky costumes. On a really hot day, place the towels in a bucket of water first.





## Roly Poly

Race a friend across the pool while floating on a beach ball. If you fall off, get back on and keep going!

## Balloon Squirt

Challenge a friend to this tricky race. Mark a starting and ending point in the yard. Each player gets a squirt bottle and a blown-up balloon. The object is to move the balloon to the finish line by squirting the balloon with water. The first one to reach the finish line wins!



## UFOs

If you are having a pool party, end it with a splash! Put small party favors inside colorful prize capsules (such as small plastic containers) and float them in the pool. Let each guest jump into the pool and retrieve one of the unidentified floating objects.

## Paper Cup Brigade

Form two teams and have each team line up so that players are standing side by side. Place a full bucket of water at one end of the line and an empty bucket at the other. Give each player a paper cup. The player next to the full bucket dips in her cup, pours it into the next player's cup, and so on. The last player dumps the water into the empty bucket. The first player keeps the water coming so that there is no break in the action. The team

with the most water in the end bucket after two minutes wins.

## Swim Silly

Here's the latest craze in Olympic sports—silly synchronized swimming! Get into pairs and create a goofy routine. Ask a parent or sibling to give out awards for "Least Synchronized" or "Worst Form."

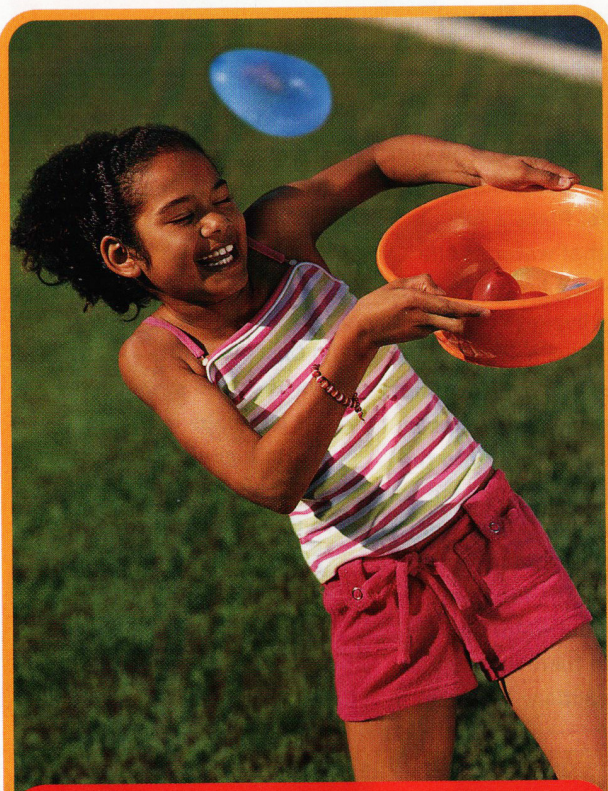


## Sponge Stack

See how many wet sponges you can balance on your head!







## Splash Dunk

Stand about 10 feet away from your partner. Toss water balloons to your partner while she tries to catch them with a plastic bowl. See how many balloons she can catch without breaking them.

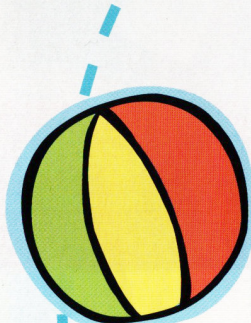


## Toss Across

Give each team 10 soft foam balls that are easily distinguished from the opponents' balls. Assign each team one end of the pool. Have one person be the timer. Each team tries to get all of its balls to the opposite end of the pool, while tossing the opposing team's balls back to them. See who has the most balls at the end of the pool after one minute.

## Duck, Duck, Fish

Play Duck, Duck, Goose the usual way, except that the Goose is a Fish. To pick the Fish, dump a cup of water on her head.



## Singing in the Rain

Have players stand on either side of a rotating sprinkler. When the sprinkler is on your team's side, you must sing a popular song, such as "The Star-Spangled Banner." When the sprinkler is on the other side, the other team must continue the song. Keep playing until someone on a team forgets the words to the song.



## Brrr— You're It!

Play freeze tag, literally! Have players tag each other with a soft ice pack (without throwing it!).



## Tube Tag

Play tag while swimming in inner tubes!



## Sprinkler Skip

Have everyone stand in a circle and jump over the spray of a rotating sprinkler. If you get wet, you're out. The girl who stays dry the longest is the winner!



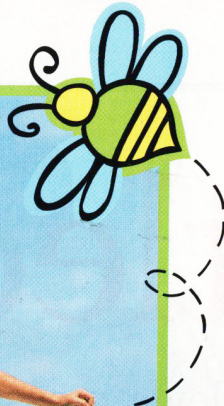




## Balloon on a Spoon

Have players divide into two teams and line up. Provide a bucket of water balloons for each team. Mark a finish line about 10 yards away. The first person on each team balances a balloon on a plastic spoon and races to the finish line. If she breaks the balloon, she must go back to the start and get a new one. The first team with all players across the finish line is the winner.





## Splashketball

Float a hula hoop or inner tube by the edge of the pool. Each girl takes a small ball and jumps into the pool with it. While in the air, she throws the ball toward the hoop and tries to score.

## Walk This Way

Have players divide into two teams and line up. Set a bucketful of water in front of each team and an empty bucket about 10 yards away. Give the first person in each line a paper cup. On "go," she has to fill her cup with water from the bucket, place the cup on her head, and walk or run to the empty bucket to dump the water. She runs back and hands the cup to the next person in line. The relay

continues for two minutes. Whichever team has the most water in their bucket at the end wins!

## Summer Showers

Have players grab empty paper cups and dance around a rotating sprinkler. The girl with the most water in her cup after one minute is the winner.

## Pick a Hand...

Hold a wet sponge in one hand behind your back. Ask another player to pick a hand. If she picks the hand with the wet sponge—well, you know what to do!

## Splash Tag

Seat one blindfolded player in the center of a playing area, and arm her with a bucket of wet sponges. Remaining players run around and make noise. The blindfolded girl throws the sponges until one girl gets tagged. The tagged girl then puts on the blindfold and is It.

## Up and Away

Blow up a balloon and try to keep it in the air—while in the pool. To make it more difficult, no hands are allowed!



## Wet and Giggly

Have players form a circle around someone chosen to be It. The goal of It is to make someone laugh. She can say or do anything except touch players. If a girl giggles, she gets squirted and becomes It. ★

Love swimming? Austin, TX, has more public swimming pools per person than any other city in the country.





# All Bottled Up

Send friends and family a clever message in a bottle!

## Getting Started

You will need one clean, dry 16- to 20-ounce plastic bottle with a screw-on top. A smooth bottle—one without any ridges on the sides—works best. Remove the label from the bottle. (Use a dab of nail polish remover to get rid of stubborn labels.)

## Birthday Bonanza

Surprise a friend with a mini party in her mailbox!

### Include:

- Ribbons
- Balloons
- Candles

### Message:

Laughs, smiles, and chocolate,  
Hugs, cake, and games to play,  
All these things I wish for you  
On your very special day!

## Flower Power

Send a smile to someone, whether it's a friend you miss or someone who is sick.

### Include:

- Fake flowers
- Smiley faces

### Message:

If flowers were friends,  
I'd pick you!  
If smiles were sunshine,  
You'd make a garden grow!





## Stars & Stripes

Spread Fourth of July cheer.

Include:

- Sparkly pom-poms
- Patriotic confetti

Message:

Hooray, hooray for the  
Red, white, and blue!  
Hooray, hooray 'cause  
I have a friend like you!

## Sending the Bottle

To send your bottle, follow these directions from the U.S. Postal Service.



Be sure your **return address** is on the bottle. You may want to tuck it inside also, on a **folded note**.

Tape the **address** securely to the bottle with clear packing tape. Wrap the tape around the bottle.

Don't leave the bottle in the mailbox! Have it weighed at the post office and sent first-class mail.

Be sure the **lid** is screwed on tightly.

Use a piece of clear tape to secure the lid.

Send only **plastic bottles**, not glass. ★



# Big Hearts, Small World

"I love helping people when I can," says Katie L.

When Katie and her family decided to open their home to Anna L., a girl from Belarus, Katie just wanted to help someone in need. The 11-year-old never guessed she'd gain a best friend in the process.

Every year since 2002, Anna has traveled from her home in Eastern Europe to spend the summer with Katie and her

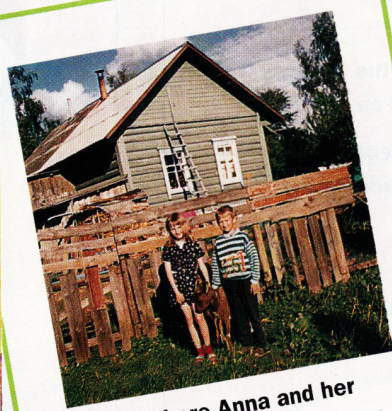
Louisiana family. Anna comes to the United States through the American Belarussian Relief Organization, or ABRO. ABRO helps kids who live in the area that was affected by a terrible explosion at Chernobyl, a nuclear power plant.

Radiation got into the air and the soil and the buildings and the food, and it causes many health problems for people who live in Belarus.

In America, Belarussian kids like Anna breathe clean air and eat radiation-free food, and they also get medical and dental care. Spending just a few weeks in the U.S. really improves the health of these kids.

## Common Ground

When Anna first arrived in Louisiana, she didn't speak much English. Katie and her family didn't speak much Russian, either. But somehow, the girls found a way to communicate. Hugs and laughter helped a lot. "When I first met Anna at the airport," Katie remembers, "I kept hugging her and squeezing her and saying, 'I love her already, Mom!' Anna just smiled the whole time

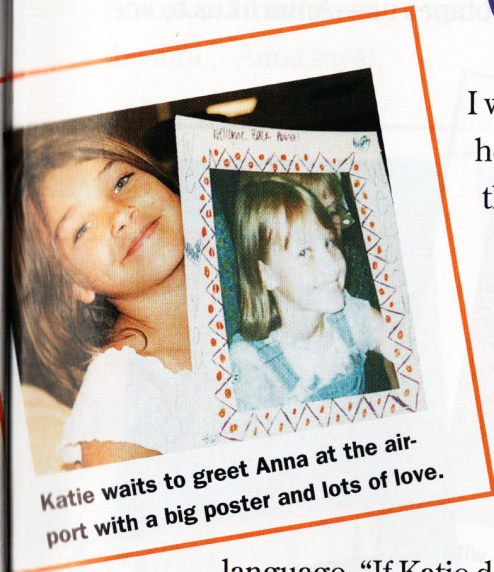


Here's where Anna and her brother, Pavel, live in Belarus.





Even though these two friends live thousands of miles apart in very different worlds, they're not so different after all.



I was squeezing her. We laugh at that now."

Quickly, Katie and Anna learned to say just what they want to say through a mix of English,

Russian, and body

language. "If Katie doesn't understand me," Anna explains, "I show what I want with my hands, and sometimes we use a Russian-English dictionary." After her first trip to America, Anna worked extra hard in her English classes at school. "I made very good grades in English," she says. "I learned because I knew that I would be coming back to America, and I wanted to be able to speak and understand Katie and her family."

Anna and Katie became friends almost instantly—and their friendship has only grown since they've known each other. Both girls agree that learning about their differences helped them become closer. "Being from different worlds, from different cultures, makes it more interesting to be friends and to see how a girl the same age lives in a different way," Anna says.



Katie's brother Drake, Katie, Anna, Pavel, Katie's brother Keegan, and Katie's parents pose for a family picture.



In Belarus, Anna lives in a two-room home with her parents and her brother, Pavel. She doesn't have a computer or a TV—or even an indoor bathroom. She and her family pump their water from a well outside and bring it indoors. They grow a lot of their own food. Anna and Pavel don't have many clothes or shoes. "It is a different life and sometimes a better life here in America, but I still love my life in Belarus," explains Anna, who really misses her parents and her pets while she's away from home. "I wish that Katie could come to visit me at home so that she could learn more about my culture and how I live."

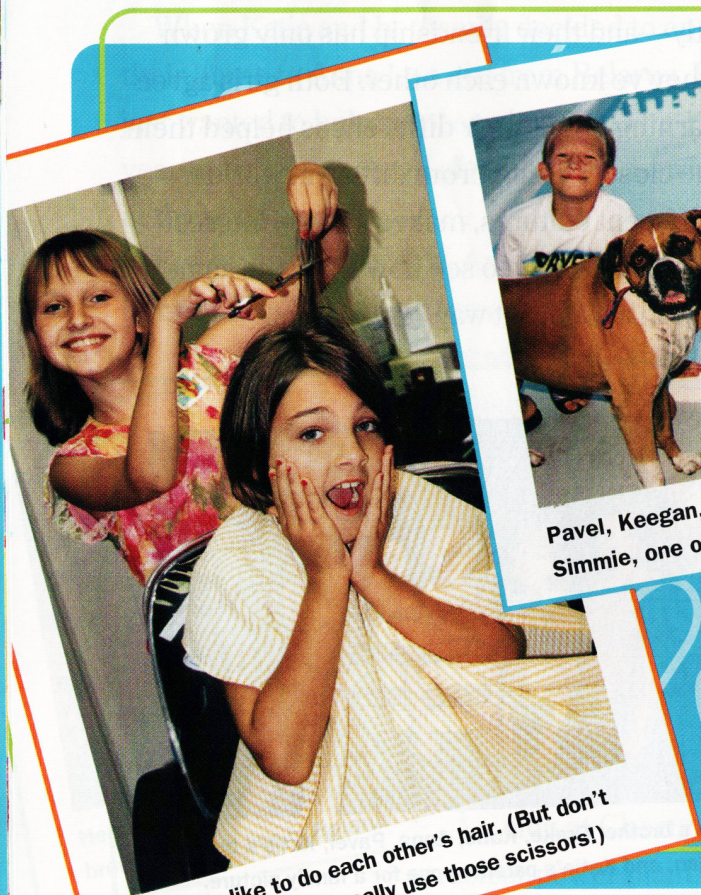
Listening to Anna talk about her home has made Katie grateful for the conveniences of her own life. "I've learned that I shouldn't take things for granted," says Katie, who loves sharing all she

has with Anna. "Having Anna here is not about me. It's about helping her to live a more healthy life. We share everything together. We share my room, my clothes, my bed, my dogs, my bike, my toys, and even my parents."

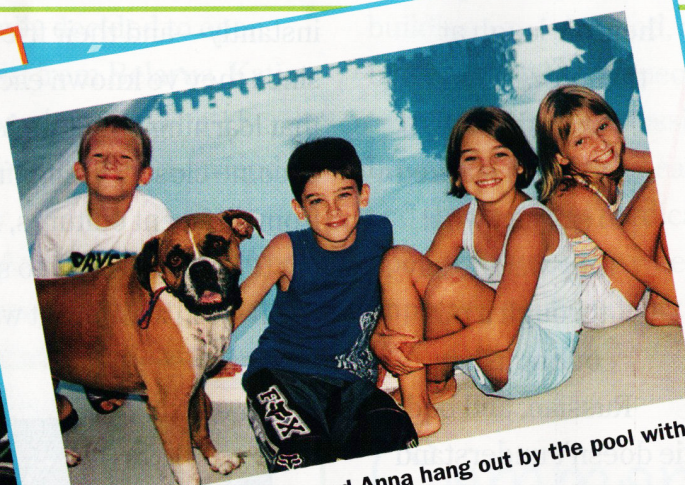
## Summer Fun

The girls share fun times, too. They play and hang out with Keegan, one of Katie's brothers, and Pavel, who traveled with Anna to stay with Katie's family last summer and this summer.

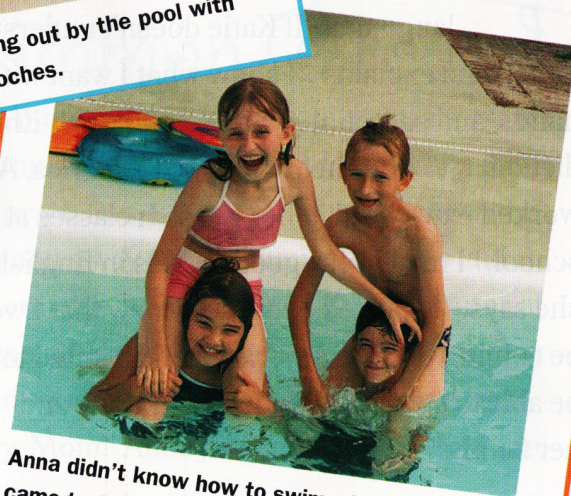
They love dancing, too. "We make up dances and sing, and then we give a show to my mom," Katie says. "My mom videotapes us—Anna likes to see herself on TV!"



The girls like to do each other's hair. (But don't worry—Anna didn't really use those scissors!)



Pavel, Keegan, Katie, and Anna hang out by the pool with Simmie, one of the family's pet pooches.



Anna didn't know how to swim when she first came to America, but now she swims like a fish!



It's healthy for kids in the ABRO program to gain weight while they're in the U.S., and Anna and Pavel have definitely developed a taste for American food. "My favorite foods in America are chicken, pizza, and french fries," Anna says. Katie and her family send care packages of American treats to Anna and Pavel all year long.

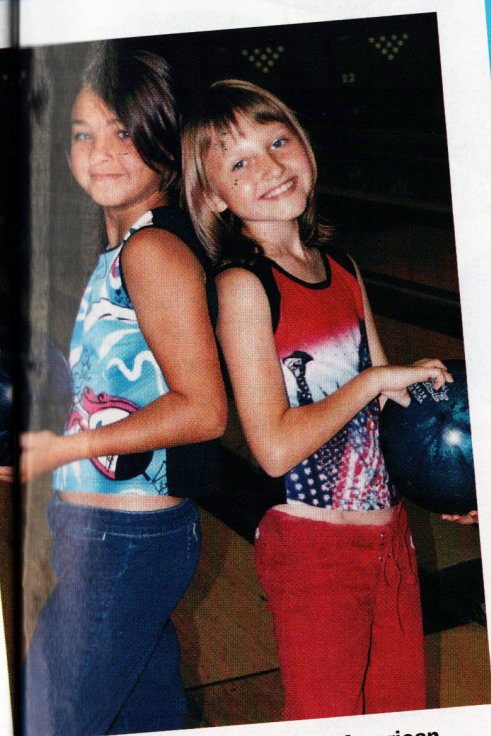
During their summers here, Anna and Pavel have gone on vacation with Katie's family. Though Anna isn't used to spending long hours riding in a car, she's glad she's had the chance to see more of America.

Even though Anna and Katie write letters and talk on the phone during the year, saying goodbye at the end of summer is always hard. "When I leave America, I miss having a good friend with me all the time," Anna says.

While the summers last, though, the girls enjoy just spending time together. "Anna is a true friend. When I am upset or sad, she knows, and she tries to cheer me up," Katie explains. "I like to show her all of the things I do in America. Anna is a fun person to do things with. She wants to learn everything!"

"I never feel alone or scared when I am here," Anna chimes in. "Katie is my friend—and she is my sister." ★

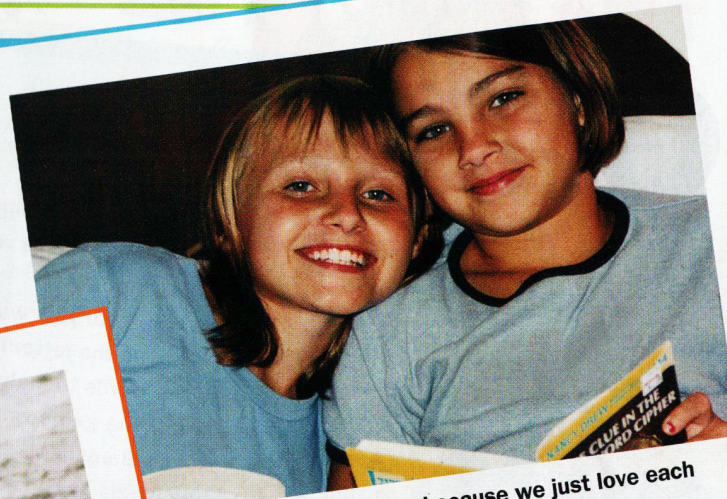
For more information about ABRO or to find out how your family can participate, ask your parents to write to  
**American Belarussian Relief Organization**  
P.O. Box 1211  
Rustburg, VA 24588.



Anna's learned to enjoy all-American activities like bowling and Little League.



Anna and Katie had a blast tubing while on a family trip to Branson, Missouri.



"Our friendship is strong because we just love each other and we are happy together," explains Anna.

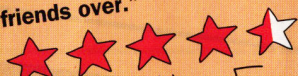


# GAME TIME

Readers like you review the latest games.

## For Art Smarties

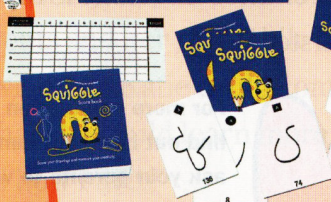
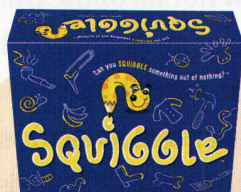
"In Squiggle, you have to make a picture out of a funny-looking shape or line. If your teammate guesses what your picture is, you earn points. I liked seeing what my friends drew (one even drew an alien!), and I liked guessing what my teammate drew. It's a great game to play when you have friends over."



Danielle F.

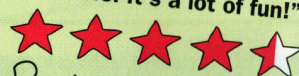
Age 12, New York

Squiggle by RandomLine Inc., \$25



## For Word Whizzes

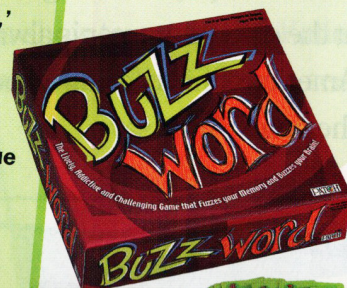
"In Buzzword, you and your teammates try to answer sets of clues that hint at phrases or sayings. The answers to all the clues in each set contain a specific buzzword. For example, if the buzzword is 'pig,' a clue might be 'went to market,' and the answer would be 'this little piggy.' It's an interesting game, and it's easy to laugh about the clue answers. It's a lot of fun!"



Brietta N.

Age 12, Minnesota

Buzzword by Patch Products, Inc., \$15



## For Star Spellers

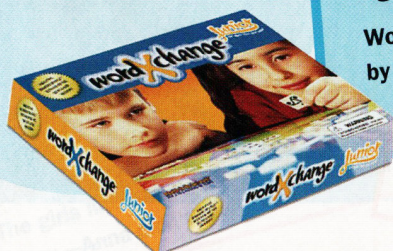
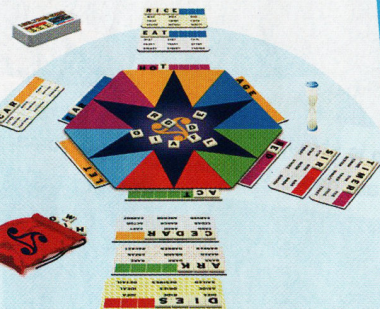
"The object of WordXchange Junior is to make words with letter tiles. But other players can steal your words if they mix up the letters in one of the words to make a new word. The game was fun and challenging. I liked stealing words best! But the game went by too fast."



Brooke A.

Age 9, Connecticut

WordXchange Junior by Prodigieux, \$25



## For Hands-On Girls

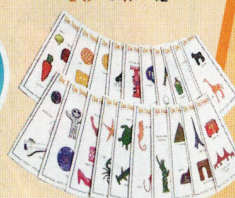
"To start playing The Touch, you put a bunch of little plastic objects inside a dome. Then you have to pull out certain objects without looking. It's a mystery trying to find the objects with your fingers. It makes you laugh because you think you have the right thing, but you don't."



Destinee F.

Age 12, Maryland

The Touch by Anthony Innovations, Inc., \$30





# What a Trip!

Play this board game and race your friends to see who can finish the perfect summer trip first.



## How to play:

You'll need two or more players, a game piece for each player (use buttons, coins, nuts, or any small objects), paper and a pencil for each player, and a die.

The object of the game is to earn three points in *each* of the five color categories on the game board squares.

The colors of the game squares—red, blue, yellow, green, and purple—represent different kinds of things you might do on a vacation.

To keep score, each player labels her paper with the five colors on the game board. Each time she earns a point on a certain colored square, she marks a point for herself under that color. Each time she loses a point for a color, she subtracts a point from her total for that color.

SCORE*	
RED	///
BLUE	I
YELLOW	II
GREEN	Ø
PURPLE	I

To begin, place all game pieces on Start. Roll the die to see who goes first. The player to roll the lowest number begins. The first

player rolls the die, moves her game piece forward, and follows the instructions on the square she lands on. Then the player to her left takes her turn, and so on.

Play continues until one player—the winner!—collects three or more points for *each* of the five colors.





**Start!**

If you land here, give yourself a point for any color you choose.

You got the window seat on the airplane. Give yourself a point.

Your family lets you decide what to do for one day of your vacation! Tell what you'd choose and give yourself two points.

Time for a trip to the art museum. Name your favorite artist and give yourself one point.

The hotel you picked out serves a free pancake breakfast! Give yourself two points.

You spent the day shopping at America's biggest mall. Give yourself one point.

Oh no! Your flight home was canceled! Lose a point.

At the historical society, you found out that your family has lived in America since the 1700s! Give yourself two points.

You forgot to pick up a special souvenir for your best friend. Lose one point.

You spent the day biking down a mountain. Give yourself one point.

Pick another player and guess what that person is most likely to buy as a souvenir. If you guess right, give yourself two points.

Name your favorite pizza topping and give yourself a point.

The hotel you picked out has a pool and an arcade! Give yourself two points.

You lost your ticket to the big show! Lose one point.

You toured a cave and learned the difference between stalagmites and stalactites. Give yourself a point.

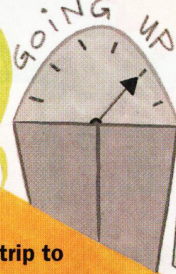
What's the farthest from home you've ever traveled? Tell the other players and give yourself a point.

You ordered a hot dog at a world-famous French restaurant! Lose one point.

If you've ever bought a souvenir with your name on it, give yourself one point.

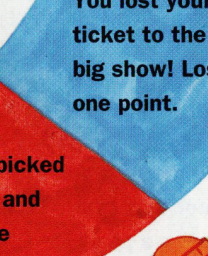
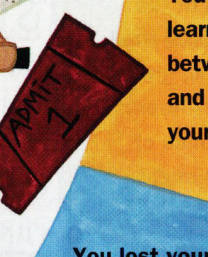
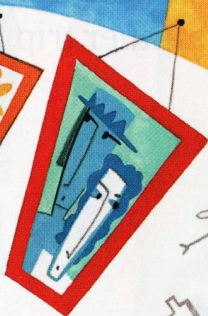
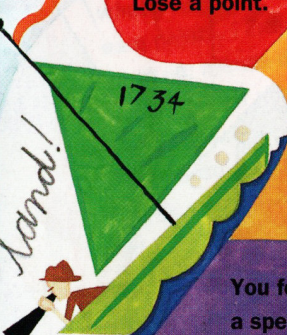
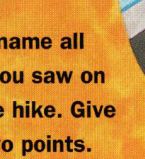
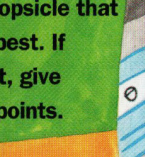
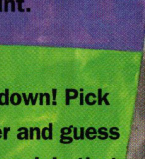
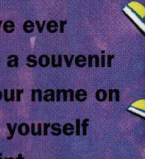
Time to cool down! Pick another player and guess what flavor Popsicle that person likes best. If you're correct, give yourself two points.

You could name all the trees you saw on your nature hike. Give yourself two points.



size 4

3,000 MILES










# Rainbow of



## Red Cherry Berry


 Thick and sweet—a smoothie treat!

Place  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup frozen cherries,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup frozen raspberries,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup

raspberry sherbet, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup apple juice in a blender. Ask an adult to blend well.



## Peachy Keen

 After hitting the beaches, treat yourself to a smoothie with peaches. Put 1 cup orange sherbet, 1 cup

frozen peaches, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup juice from canned peaches in a blender. Ask an adult to blend well.




# Smoothies


by Sarah Jane Brian




## Hello, Yellow!

 A mouthwatering mixture you'll love. Put 5 canned pineapple rings into a plastic bag and freeze overnight. In a blender, put frozen pineapple,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup banana yogurt, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup pineapple juice. Ask an adult to blend well.

## Seeing Green

 A tropical treat. Gently break 2 lime frozen-fruit bars off their sticks. Ask an adult to peel 2 kiwis. Place lime bars, kiwi fruit, and 1 tablespoon cream of coconut into a blender. Ask an adult to blend well.

## Blueberry Blast

 Banish the blues with a sweet sipper. In a blender, combine  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup frozen blackberries, 1 cup frozen blueberries,

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup vanilla yogurt,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup grape juice, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk. Ask an adult to blend well. Yum! ★



# Quiz

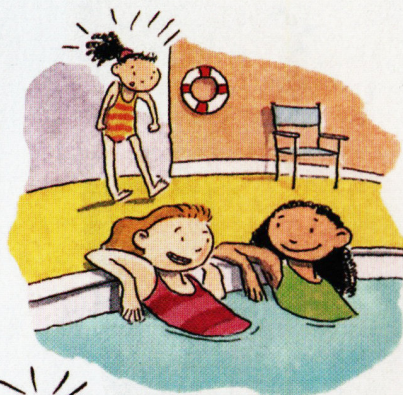
# When You Lose Your Cool

Is the way you handle ANGER hurting or helping you? Take this quiz and find out!



**1.** Your sister borrows your favorite shirt and gives it back to you covered with stains. You

- A.** yell, "What a jerk! You should be more careful with my stuff!"
- B.** run the shirt under water as tears stream down your face.
- C.** say nothing. Your parents will be furious if you start arguing.
- D.** take back the headband you gave her for her birthday.



**2.** You ask your friend Lisa to go swimming. She says, "No, thanks." So you go by yourself. At the pool, you see Lisa—with another girl. You

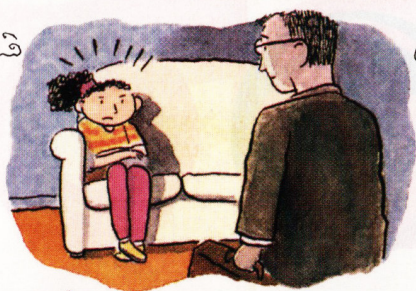
- A.** say, "Some friend you are!"
- B.** make a quick exit so no one will see you cry.
- C.** pretend you don't see them and leave. You never mention it to Lisa, because you don't want her to like the other girl better.
- D.** start planning a great party. Too bad Lisa won't be invited.

**3.** During a big soccer game, a teammate passes you the ball, but Nina steals it and makes the winning goal. You

- A.** yell out, "You show-off!"
- B.** feel like crying, even though your team won the game.
- C.** act like it's no big deal.
- D.** tell your teammates never to pass the ball to Nina again.







**4.** Your dad promised to take you to the movies. But by the time he gets home, it's too late to go. You

- A.** shout, "Thanks for nothing!" and slam the door to your room.
- B.** watch TV as tears fill your eyes.
- C.** tell him it's O.K.—even though it's not.
- D.** are slow to answer the next time he asks you for help.

**5.** You're working on a project with Amy. You write a good report, but Amy makes a sloppy poster. Your team gets a low grade. You

- A.** say, "Nobody wanted you for a partner. Now I know why!"
- B.** get so upset, you start to cry.
- C.** don't say anything, since you don't want Amy to get mad.
- D.** make sure everyone knows the low grade was Amy's fault.



## How Did You Answer?

If you circled mostly...

**A's**, hurtful words or actions get your point across when you're angry.



But shouts and slammed doors keep others from understanding why you're mad. Try saying, "I'm so mad, I need time to cool down!" Then come back when you're ready to talk.

**B's**, crying is your way of getting your strong feelings out. But after you cry, wash your face and talk calmly about what's made you so angry.



**C's**, you often cover up angry feelings because you don't want to hurt anyone. But keep in mind that doing this only hurts you—and your relationships. Telling people how you feel can bring you closer to them.



**D's**, you may want to "get even" with the person who has made you mad, or try to get others mad at that person, too. Talking to



others can help you sort out your feelings, but don't be fooled! There's no substitute for talking to the person you're angry with. Getting even may seem fair, but it usually just makes things worse.

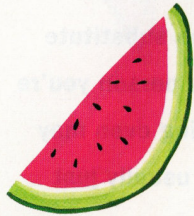
## Making It Better

Anger can be helpful when it leads you to change what's bothering you. To do that, you need to talk about how you feel.

- 1.** Describe what made you angry: "Dad, it made me mad that you were so late."
- 2.** Tell how it made you feel: "I felt like you didn't really care about our plans."
- 3.** Say how you wish the person had acted: "I wish you had planned your day differently so that we could have gone to the movies."
- 4.** Try to make an agreement about how you'll handle things next time: "Would it help if I reminded you about our plans in the morning?" ★



# ToDo



**Not sure how to spend your summer days?  
Fill them with these fun ideas!**

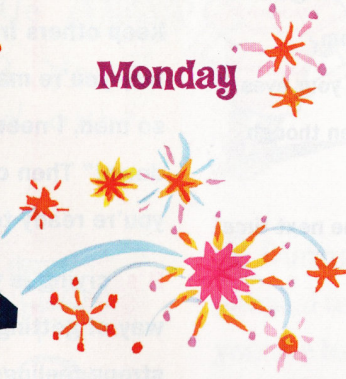
**J  
u  
l  
y**

**Sunday**

In honor of Independence Day, see how much red, white, and blue you can wear. Don't forget your toenails!

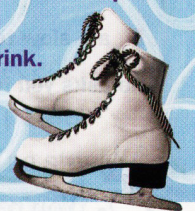


**Monday**



**Tuesday**

Beat the heat by hanging out at the coolest place in town—the ice rink.



**6**

Today is National Cheer Up the Lonely Day. Why not make your own good cheer cards for residents of a local nursing home?

**11**

Start your own No Gossip Week. Make a pact with your friends not to gossip for seven whole days.

**12**

Hold a jump-rope marathon for all your friends. See who can jump the longest, who can do double Dutch, and who can spin the rope twice on one jump.

**13**

It's National Ice Cream Day! Host an ice cream social in honor of Sundae Sunday.

**18**



It's Nap Day! Hit the hammock for a celebratory snooze.

**20**

Celebrate Christmas in July! Make frozen hot chocolate and hang twinkly Christmas tree lights in your room. Only 154 days left until the real thing.

**25**

Enter to win a beach bag packed with a towel, sunglasses, toys, candy, and other summer treats, plus a year's subscription to AG! Turn to page 2 to find out how!

**27**

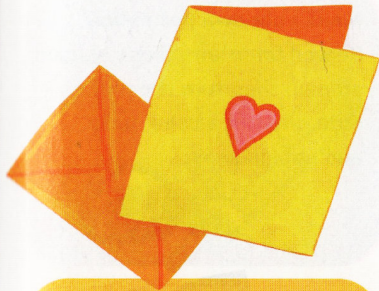
Americans eat about 7 billion hot dogs between Memorial Day and Labor Day each year.





# TODAY

## Wednesday

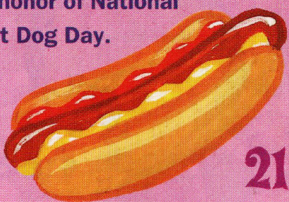


Today is Chocolate Day!  
Treat yourself to your  
favorite candy bar.



It's Bastille Day, France's  
independence day.  
Celebrate with a picnic  
lunch of baguettes, crepes,  
and quiche!

Have a weenie for lunch  
in honor of National  
Hot Dog Day.



28

## Thursday

It's "I Forgot" Day. Send out  
cards for birthdays you missed  
over the past year.



1

Set a goal for how many pages  
you can read this month. Next  
month, add 100 pages. Start  
your summer reading with an  
award-winning book like  
*The Tale of Despereaux*  
by Kate DiCamillo.

8



Ask your parents if you can  
have your own garden patch  
in the backyard. Plant at least  
one kind of veggie and one  
kind of flower.

16

Daniel Radcliffe turns 15 today.  
Send him a birthday card

c/o Harry Potter Publicity Office  
Southway, Leavesden, Herts  
Watford WD25 7LT  
United Kingdom.  
(Use extra postage.)

23

Need some summer sparkle?  
Use jewel glue to attach  
rhinestones to last year's  
sunglasses, and you'll have  
it made in the shade.

29



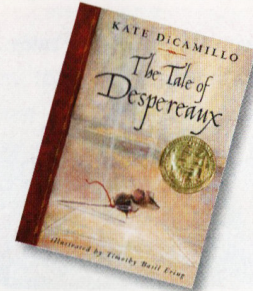
## Friday

Lindsay Lohan turns 18 today!  
Send her your birthday greetings

c/o Buena Vista Pictures  
500 S. Buena Vista St.  
Burbank, CA 91521-1339.



2



9

## Saturday



Summer's a great time to  
organize your photos from the  
school year in a scrapbook.



10

Turn your driveway into a  
gargantuan canvas for your  
own sidewalk-chalk art.



17

Start your own neighborhood  
newsletter. Ask friends to be  
reporters and photographers,  
and give your neighbors the  
latest scoop.



24

Stay busy and earn extra bucks  
by running your own bike wash.  
Spread the word ahead of time  
by calling friends.



31

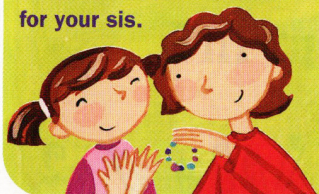


# To Do

# August

## Sunday

Celebrate Sisters' Day by beading a friendship bracelet for your sis.



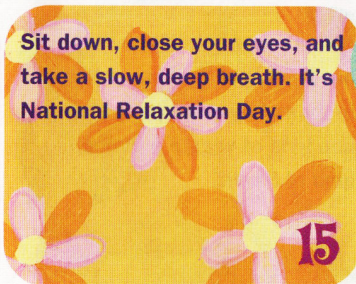
1

It's Swim Day! Why not take a dip with your family and friends?



8

Sit down, close your eyes, and take a slow, deep breath. It's National Relaxation Day.



15



22

It's the last day of the Summer Olympics. Host a party to watch the closing ceremonies.



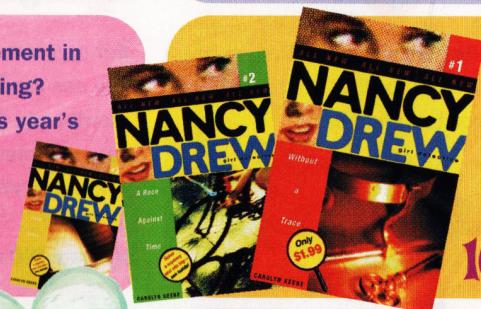
29

## Monday



2

Need some excitement in your summer reading? Pick up one of this year's new Nancy Drew mysteries.



10

Host a progressive party with pals in your neighborhood. Go to one friend's house for snacks, to another friend's house for games, and then to your house for a movie.

17



Ask your mom and your grandma what their favorite movies were when they were your age. Rent their flick picks for a family popcorn party.

23



Start a dream journal. Write down your dreams as soon as you wake up. Think summer thoughts before you sleep, and you'll keep summer in your mind—and heart—all year long.

31





# TODAY

## Wednesday

Go wild today! Color in AG's Jungle Jam Poster and hang it up in your room.



4

## Thursday



Write to your favorite teacher from the last school year, and tell that teacher how much she or he taught you.



12

## Friday

It's the halfway point of summer. Celebrate by spending the entire day in your swimsuit at the pool, on the beach, or under the sprinkler.

6

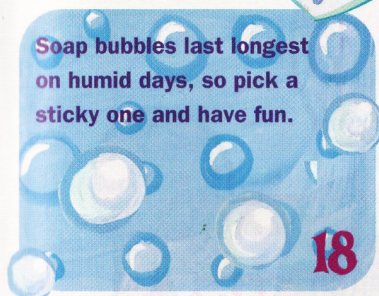
## Saturday

Dig out your favorite books from when you were little and reread them to see if they still make you smile.



14

Soap bubbles last longest on humid days, so pick a sticky one and have fun.



18

Buy a disposable camera and take all the pictures today! Then make a special day-in-your-life scrapbook with the prints.



19

Buy postcards that feature your hometown, and send them to faraway friends.



25

It's International Left-Hander's Day. If you're right-handed, try using your left hand to write a note or eat your dinner. If you're left-handed, give yourself a treat.

13



21

Stop by a local animal shelter and donate all your spare change in honor of National Homeless Animals Day.

It's Alexa Vega's 16th birthday! Send the Spy Kid your best wishes

c/o BWR Public Relations  
9100 Wilshire Blvd.  
6th Floor, West Tower  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

27

Take a family bike ride. Pack a picnic lunch, and stop to eat it along the way.








# \$ummer Cents by Shannon Seip

Want to earn extra money but don't know how? Take this quiz. Then turn the page to see what kind of job suits your style.

## Secrets of Success

- **Be confident.** When you introduce yourself to a potential customer, make eye contact, smile, and shake hands. Adults will take you more seriously if you're confident. 
- **Ask for advice.** A little input can go a long way toward improving your business. 
- **Promote yourself.** Always have a business card or flyer advertising your business. Make sure to include your name and phone number. But, to be safe, give your card or flyer only to people you know.
- **Get new customers.** Tell your clients you will give them a discount on the next order or service they purchase if they help you get new customers. You'll have new clients in no time! 
- **Be generous.** Donate a part of your income to your favorite local charity, and let your customers know how you're giving back to the community.



**1.** You could spend hours having fun...

- a. in the kitchen.
- b. at a playground.
- c. in an art studio.
- d. in your backyard.



**2.** The magazine article you're most likely to read is...

- a. a yummy recipe.
- b. a feature on caring for kittens.
- c. a cool craft.
- d. a how-to piece on growing sunflowers.







**3.** The word that best describes you is...

- a. independent.
- b. responsible.
- c. artistic.
- d. outdoorsy.



**4.** You're most likely to personalize your e-mails with an icon of...

- a. a cookie. 
- b. a baby's face. 
- c. a paintbrush. 
- d. a flower. 

**5.** You're most likely to give your mom a gift of...

- a. homemade brownies.
- b. a coupon good for one night of babysitting for your little brother.
- c. a beaded bracelet.
- d. a coupon for a car wash done by you.



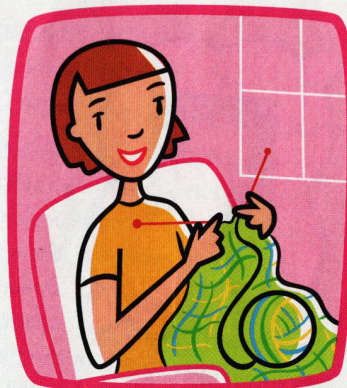
**6.** You're not afraid of...

- a. asking people to buy something from you.
- b. being in charge while adults are away.
- c. having people evaluate your work.
- d. getting dirty when you're working.

**7.** You'd like a volunteer job...



- a. helping to prepare meals at a soup kitchen.



- c. showing how to make crafts at the senior center.



- b. taking care of animals at the shelter.



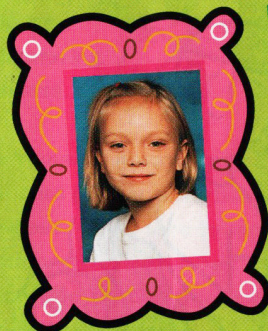
- d. helping to keep your neighborhood litter-free.



## If you picked mostly A's, you are fabulous with food.

You love whipping up yummy treats for others to enjoy. This summer, try selling your kitchen creations. Head to your local library to find fun cookbooks. Then set up a stand to sell...

- cookies and brownies.
- lemonade.
- homemade pet treats.



### Moneymaker:

Braelyn P., age 9, North Carolina

### Job description:

Braelyn sells homemade cookies, brownies, and breads. She approached businesses in her hometown to ask if she

could sell her treats to their employees. Braelyn takes orders all week, bakes on Mondays, and delivers her goods on Tuesdays.

### Financial goal:

Braelyn is saving her profits to someday open her own bakery outside her home.

### How much she charges:

\$1.50 for each bag of treats.

### Braelyn's moneymaking advice:

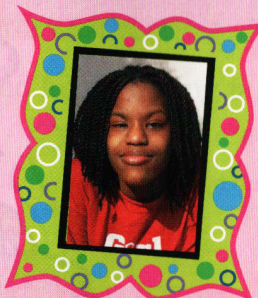
"Take yourself and your business seriously, so adults know you're not just kidding around."



## If you picked mostly B's, you are super at sitting.

You're the perfect person to count on when adults are away. Let neighbors know you're the one to turn to when they need someone to watch their kids, pets, or house. Start your own business as a...

- babysitter. Take a Red Cross course first!
- pet sitter.
- house sitter.



### Moneymaker:

Eulla A., age 13, Wisconsin

### Job description:

Eulla babysits for her younger cousin and nephews. She has great qualifications—Eulla's taken a babysitting course at her school, so she knows

how to do basic first aid and CPR.

### Financial goal:

Eulla puts some of her earnings in savings and spends the rest.

### How much she charges:

\$2 an hour

### Eulla's moneymaking advice:

"It's important to have fun with the kids. If you don't, they'll tell their mom they don't want you to babysit again."





## If you picked mostly C's, you are **creative and crafty**.

Everyone envies your artistic skills. Why not use your creativity to earn some cash? Spend your summer days selling your own line of...

- jewelry.
- greeting cards.
- photo frames.



### **Moneymaker:**

Tatiana B., age 12, Florida

### **Job description:**

Tatiana makes her own line of beaded bracelets and necklaces. She sells her jewelry at her synagogue's craft fairs and to people who work with her parents.

### **Financial goal:**

Tatiana puts half of her earnings in a savings account and spends the rest on things she wants, including beads for jewelry for herself.

### **How much she charges:**

Tatiana's prices range from \$6 to \$40 per bracelet or necklace, depending on the quality of the beads she uses. After figuring in the cost of materials, Tatiana earns about half of what she charges.

### **Tatiana's moneymaking advice:**

"I always wear my products around customers so they can see what the jewelry looks like on."



## If you picked mostly D's, you are **outdoor bound**.

You love working outside and you've got a green thumb. As long as you have sunscreen on and water to drink, you work well under the sun. Start your own business...

- pulling neighbors' weeds.
- watering plants and gardens.
- washing cars.



### **Moneymaker:**

Annie T., age 11, Nebraska

### **Job description:**

With help from her parents, friends, and the local police, Annie organized a car wash to raise extra cash.

### **Financial goal:**

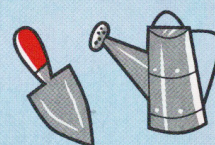
Annie aimed to raise enough money to purchase bulletproof vests for local police dogs.

### **How much she charged:**

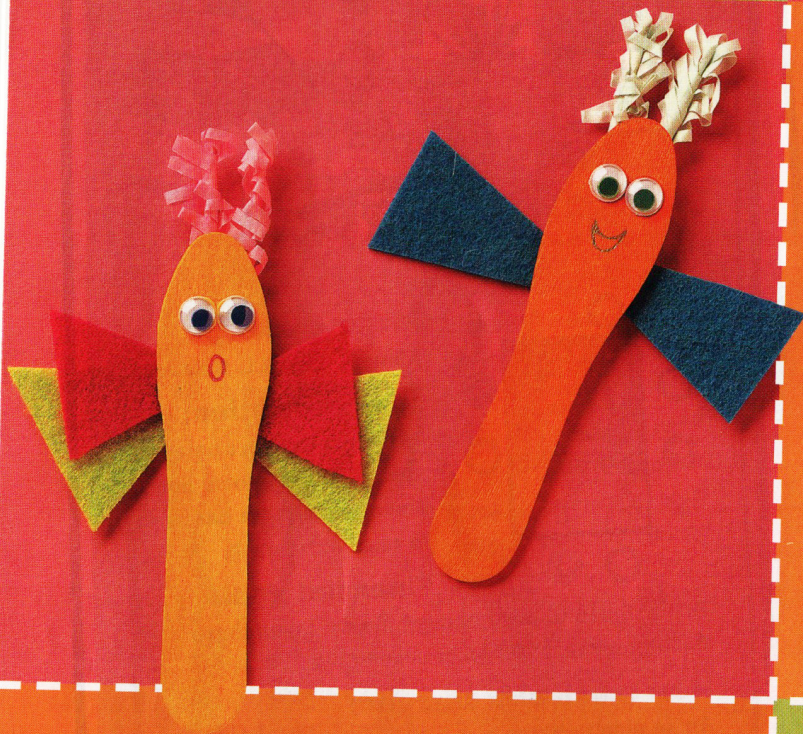
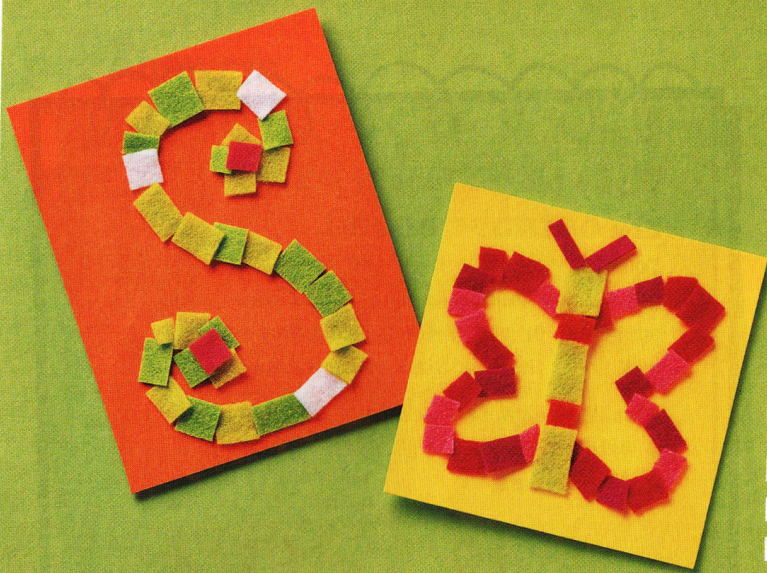
Annie didn't charge a specific amount for car washes at her one-time event. She simply asked people to donate what they could.

### **Annie's moneymaking advice:**

"It's too hard to do a job like this by yourself. Make sure you have a lot of people who can help." ★









Spend time with your little sibling making  
easy crafts that are fun and...

# So Cute!

## Stay Safe!

Before you start, read these tips to make sure your craft projects are a safe success.

- Always ask an adult before starting craft projects with younger children.
- If a craft item is small enough to fit inside a film canister, then it's too small for any child age four and younger.
- If you are crafting with a child under the age of four, be sure that an adult is making the project with you.

## Crafting with Kids

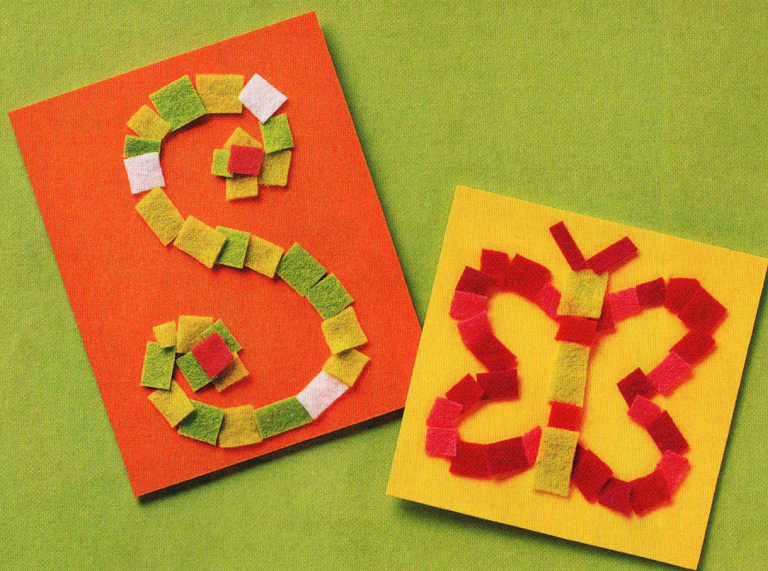
Always keep the following things on hand:

- Extra newspapers to cover your work surface
- A wet rag to clean up little messes
- Nontoxic washable glue, since crafting with little ones can be messy!
- A deck of cards. While you are waiting for crafts to dry, play a quick game of "Go Fish" to keep younger ones occupied.

## Super Supplies

- Keep all of your craft items in one handy box. Ask an adult for an empty plastic storage container or shoe box.
- Use small plastic bags to keep little items contained.
- Keep an eye out for fun craft supplies that are on sale. Ask your parents if you can buy them to add to your craft box.





## Felt Mosaic

Cut felt into small squares. Use a pencil to draw a simple picture onto a piece of craft foam. Squeeze glue onto the pencil lines. Place felt pieces onto glue lines. Let dry.

## Fly Away

To make antennae, glue party toothpicks to the back of a colored craft spoon. Cut triangles from felt to make wings. Glue felt pieces to the back, making sure to cover the sharp points of the toothpicks. Let dry. Glue on google eyes. Draw a mouth with a marker. Glue a magnet to the back. Hang it on your refrigerator!



## Foam Book

Cut 8-by-10-inch sheets of craft foam in half. Use a ruler to mark where you are going to punch holes to hold the book together. Use a paper punch to punch the holes. Insert a pipe cleaner through the holes and twist the ends together to secure. Together with your sibling, create a story. Then have her decorate the pages by gluing on pictures, foam shapes, or paper decorations. Let dry.





## Button Bugs

Carefully cut 2 inches off the end of a pipe cleaner. Slide the small pipe cleaner through the holes on a button. Glue on google eyes. Glue the bug onto a magnet and let dry.

## Cute Craft Box

Color a brown paper craft box with a washable marker. Squeeze glue onto the top of the box, covering it completely. Starting in the center of the lid, place yarn in the glue and wrap it around in a circle to create a spiral. Cut yarn when finished. Add a pom-pom. Let dry.



## Bright Blossoms

Use scissors to cut a section from an empty foam egg carton. Fill each section with some colored sand. To make the flowers, glue foam circles onto foam flower shapes. Glue flower heads onto colored craft sticks. Let dry. Place your beautiful blooms into the sand, and create a lovely indoor garden!



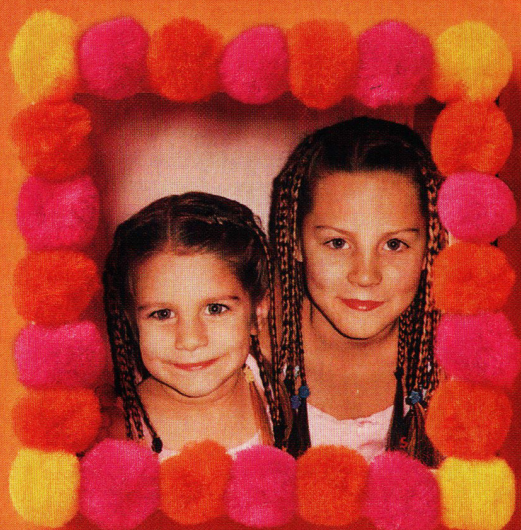


## Stick Puppets

Glue foam shapes together to create cute creatures such as fish, birds, and cats. Add googly eyes, feathers, and other details. Glue to colored craft sticks and let dry. Now create a story with your sibling, and act it out. Put on a puppet show for your parents.

## Bug Out

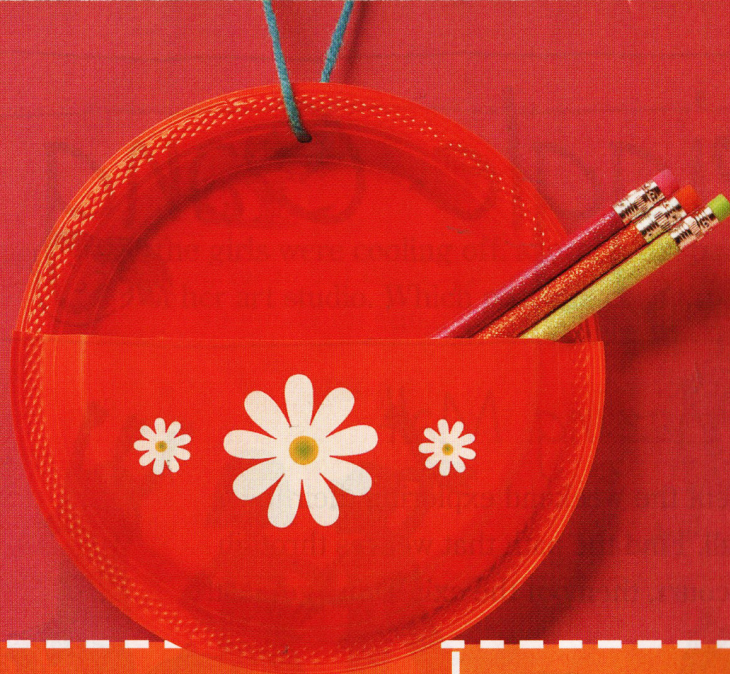
Cut a leaf shape from felt. Glue on pom-poms for the caterpillar body. Carefully cut small pieces of pipe cleaner for the legs, and glue them onto the leaf. Glue on googly eyes. Let dry. Don't forget to name your little creature.



## Fuzzy Frame

Glue 4 craft sticks together to make a frame. Let dry. Squeeze glue onto the frame and attach pom-poms. Let dry. Glue magnets onto the back of the frame. Let dry. Tape in a photo, and hang the frame on the fridge!



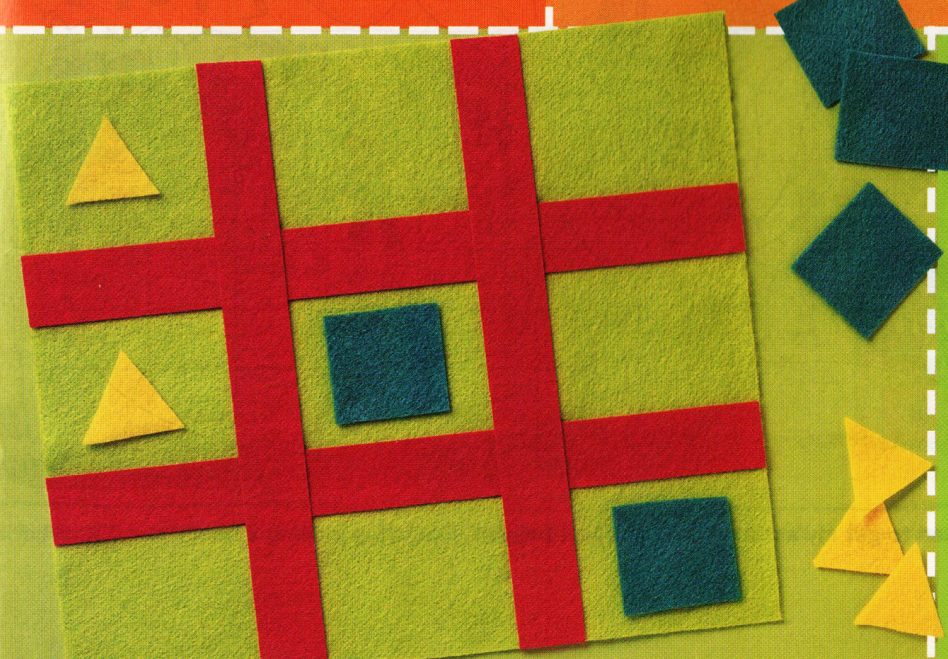
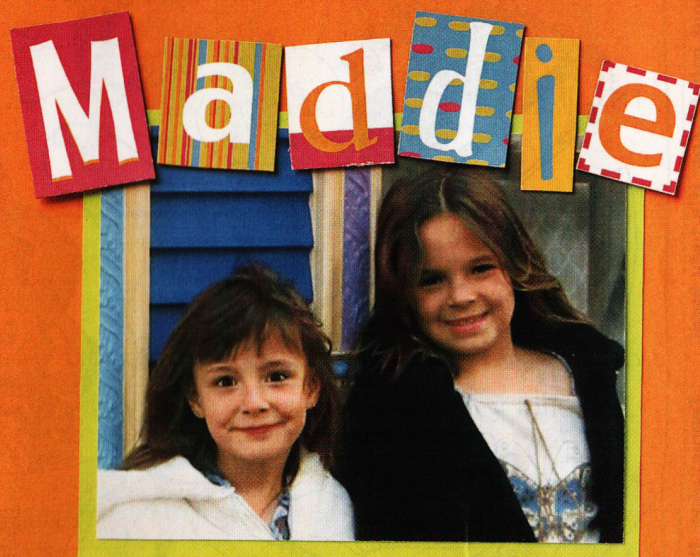


## Hangin' Out

Cut a small plastic plate in half. Glue half of the plate to another plate the same size to create a pocket. Let dry. Decorate with stickers. Punch a hole at the top and hang with a piece of yarn. Fill with goodies.

## Little Letters

Cut letters from old magazines. Attach the letters to self-adhesive magnet sheets. Cut around letters and stick them to the fridge.



## Travelin' Tic-Tac-Toe

Cut 4 strips of felt and press onto an 8-by-10-inch piece of felt (no glue needed!) to make a tic-tac-toe board. Cut 5 squares and 5 triangles from different colors of felt. Use these as your playing pieces. When you're done, roll up the game and take it with you! ★





# The Gigggle Gang



## A-Mazing Mall

The Gigggle Gang spent the weekend exploring their town, starting with the mall. Find the path that weaves through each store and food court, then out the exit. Don't get lost!



Zoe: I want to take a class this summer. Tia: How about ballet? Zoe: It's tu-tu hard! Tia: Tennis? Zoe: It's not my racket. Tia: A pottery class? Zoe: It would

never take shape. Tia: Drama? Zoe: I'd need to get my act together. Tia: Just babysit. Zoe: Stop kidding around! Tia: O.K. What about

All answers are on page 52





# In the Shadows



While the girls were cooling off, a local artist painted their shadows on the wall of her art studio. Which pose matches the shadow painting exactly?



## Cool Logic

The gang stopped for ice cream. Use the clues to figure out which different flavor each girl bought. We did one for you.

1. Katie loves strawberry.
2. Vanessa's allergic to chocolate.
3. Libby hates mix-ins.
4. Tracy's ice cream is green.



	chocolate	strawberry	mint choc. chip	Rocky Road	peach
Katie	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
Vanessa		NO			
Libby		NO			
Tracy		NO			
Erin		NO			

## Sign Up

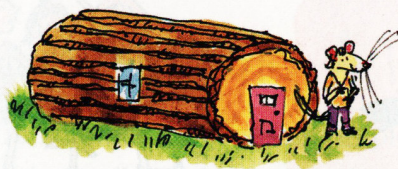
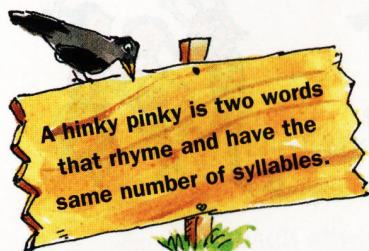
It took the pals a minute to figure out how to get downtown. Circle the sign they followed.





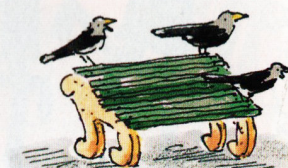
# Hinky-Pinky Park

The friends decided to stroll through the park. Read the descriptions of the sites, then figure out a hinky-pinky name for each one.



1. Our park resident loves her **wee rodent** home!

2. Take a break at the **treat hut**.



3. Cross the bridge at **serpent pond**.

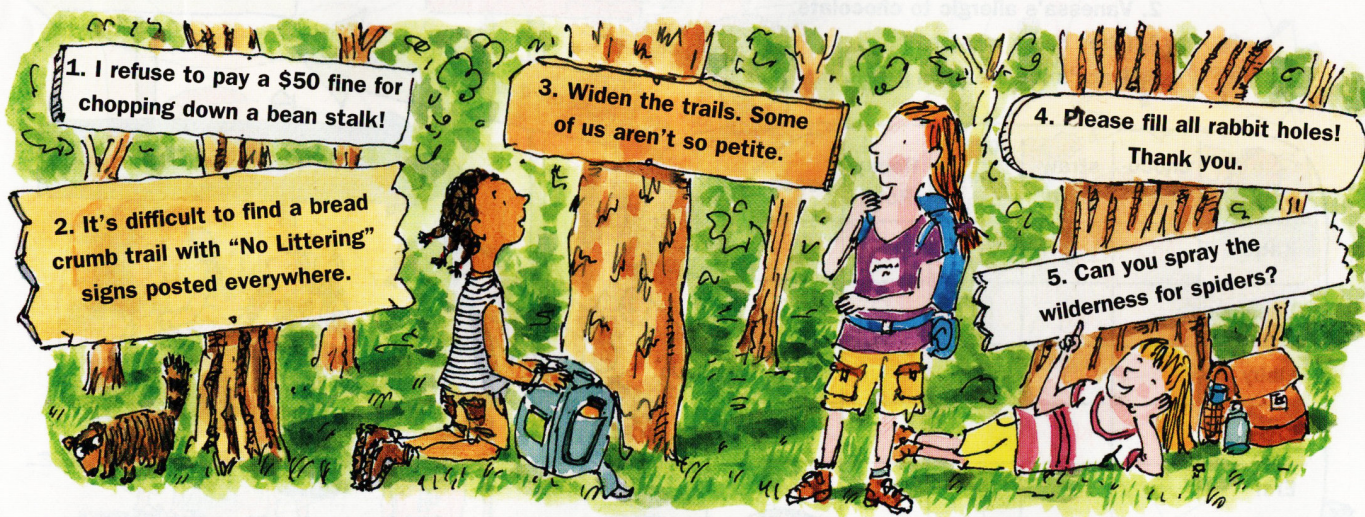
4. The **city jokester** statue waves hello!

5. Watch for a **not-quick black bird** on the bench.



## Park Service

As the girls came out of the park, they saw silly complaints from famous folks. Match each complaint with the one who wrote it.



A. Dumbo

B. Jack

C. Alice

D. Little Miss Muffet

E. Hansel and Gretel

How does a bee brush its hair? With a honeycomb. Why did the raisin go out with the prune? She couldn't



# Block Party

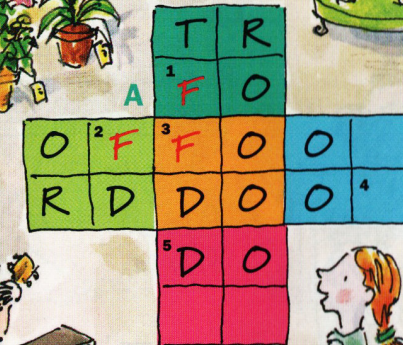
A pal invited the girls to a block party! To see the best things they saw on each block, answer each clue with a 4-letter word. Then,

starting in the numbered square, write the word clockwise or counterclockwise. We've done a few squares—and blocks—for you.



## A Block

1. Tree house
2. American car
3. What you eat
4. Yard swim spot
5. Two female deer



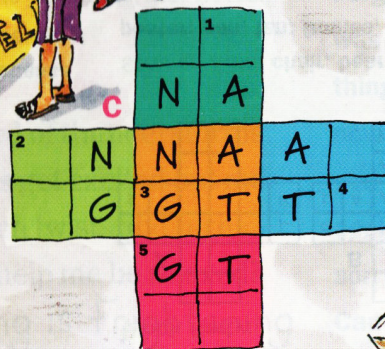
## B Block

1. Cats and dogs
2. Garage
3. Picnic pest
4. Bird's house
5. Elegant bird



## C Block

1. Rooftop weather
2. NO EXIT
3. Flying pest
4. Night sky sparkler
5. Bearded, woolly animal



get a date. Why did the strawberry call 911? It was in a jam. What happens when a banana gets a sunburn? It peels.

What fruit do twins like? Pears! Do you know the story about the peacock? It's a beautiful tail (tale). What do you call a girl with a frog on her head? Lily



# The Giggle Gang

## Strange Sale

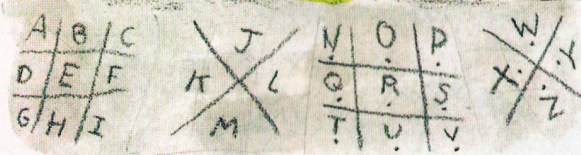
The girls stopped for a garage sale and noticed that each item rhymed with one other item. Match the things that rhyme.



\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## AG Code

Why shouldn't the Giggle Gang go for a walk on an empty stomach?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

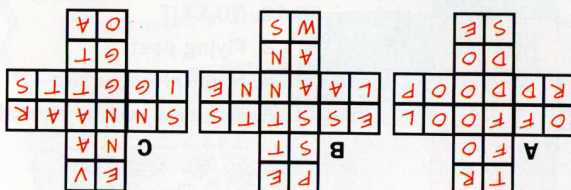
## Answer Box



The buzzword, gargantuan, appears on page 35.

**AG Code:** It's easier to walk on a sidewalk.

**Strange Sale:** chair, bear, plates, skates, toaster, poster, pan, fan, frames, games



**Block Party:**

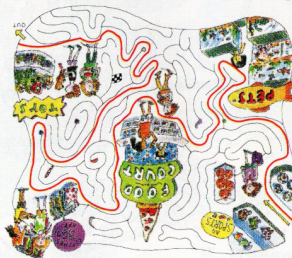
**Park Service:** 1.B 2.E 3.A 4.C 5.D

**Cool Logic:** Katie had strawberry ice cream; Vanessa got peach; Libby wanted chocolate; Tracy chose mint chocolate chip; Erin liked Rocky Road.

**Sign Up:** Each letter on the sign is spelled out. That means the girls followed sign #2 to the CITY.

**Hinky-Pinky Park:** 1. mouse house 2. snack shack 3. snake lake 4. town clown 5. slow crow

**In the Shadows:** C



**A-Mazing Mall:**

Ali: No, the lion's busy. Lori: Can you name the capital of every state in five minutes? Jen: Sure! Washington, D.C.

How can you tell if an elephant's under your bed? Your nose touches the ceiling. When does red mean go and green mean stop? When eating watermelon



# HELP!

**Dear American Girl,**

I'm a tomboy. I have a lot of fun with all the boys in my neighborhood. But there is a girl who teases me about being a tomboy, and her friends laugh along with her. I tried to stop her, but it didn't work.

*tomboy*

There's nothing wrong with being a tomboy. But make sure you don't act as if you think only boys like to do fun things. You may not want these girls as friends, but are there any other girls you could invite to join you when you play with the boys? Give it a try. If you can get other girls involved in your fun, it will be harder for these girls to tease you about what you like to do.



**Dear American Girl,**

If my mom is having a stressful day, she can be really cranky. I hate to be around her when she's like that. Help me!

*I don't know what to do.*

When Mom has a hard day, the best thing you can do is give her



some peace and quiet. Hang out in your room and read a book. If you have siblings, invite them to play a quiet board game with you so they stay out of Mom's hair, too. You might even want to write a little note telling your mom how much you love her and leave it where she'll find it. It might not seem like much, but these things will be just what she needs to feel better.



**Dear American Girl,**

I'm terrified of thunderstorms. All the kids get excited but me. My stomach twists and turns. What can help me be relaxed?

*Lightning is frightening*

Think about what scares you the most about thunderstorms, and prepare for it. Do you think you'll

get hurt in the storm? Learning storm safety tips will make you feel more secure. Does the thunder startle you? Listening to music on headphones will help block it out. Do you freak out when the power goes out? Having a flashlight handy will help. Be brave and remember: thunderstorms usually pass quickly!



**Dear American Girl,**

I feel awful because I missed my best friend's birthday. I'm really afraid she hates me. I don't know what to do. I'm scared that if I call her, she'll hang up on me.

*I Need Help!*

Forgetting your friend's birthday was just a mistake—not something you did on purpose. But now that you've remembered it, you should call your friend and apologize. Just say, "I'm really sorry that I missed your birthday. Can we still celebrate it?" Then invite her to do something fun with you. If you really try to make it up to her, she'll forgive you.



# MORE HELP!

**Dear American Girl,**

I want to get my ears pierced more than anything! I even have dreams about it. But my mom had pierced ears that got infected, so she doesn't want me to get mine pierced. Help!

**Desperate**

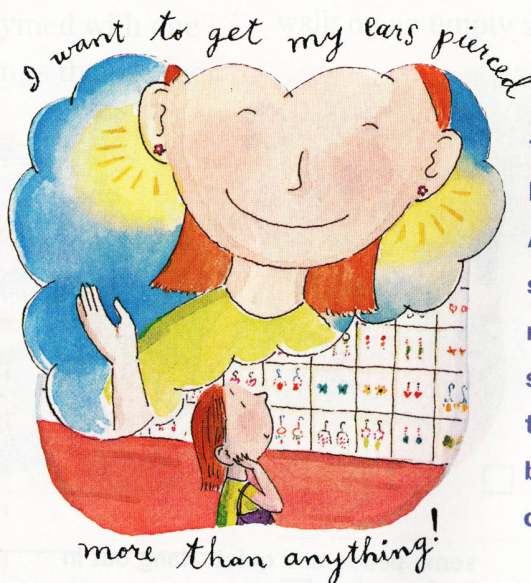
Ask your mom if she'd be willing to talk to your doctor about ear piercing. Your doctor will have good information about preventing infections, and may even be able to pierce your ears in her office. In the meantime, start saving money toward the cost of the piercing and good-quality earrings. This will help show your mom you're serious about wanting pierced ears—and mature enough to handle taking care of them.



**Dear American Girl,**

My dad is older than most dads. When people see me with him, they call him my grandpa. I love my dad a lot, but sometimes I am embarrassed to be seen with him.

**Age Troubles**



There's no "right" age for a dad to be. When people make the mistake of calling your dad your grandpa, they're the ones who should be embarrassed, not you. Next time it happens, just smile and say, "Actually, he's my dad," and leave it at that.



**Dear American Girl,**

My best friend is quite the bragger. She brags about how good she is at softball, her good looks, you name it. And I know I shouldn't be, but I'm jealous of her, even though I'm proud of who I am.

**jealous**

Your friend might act as if she thinks she's the greatest, but the

truth is she's probably bragging because she feels insecure. And even if she IS as great as she says she is, that doesn't mean *you* aren't great, too. So stay proud of who you are, and the next time your friend starts bragging, say, "Good job." Then change the subject!



## Advice from You

"When you get in a fight or think a friend is being mean, most adults will tell you to talk to each other calmly. If you're not the kind of person who will do that, I have a suggestion. Write a note to that person. That way, you can't just stand there and fight."

*Katherine H.*

Age 11, Florida

Need advice? Got advice? Write:  
**Help!**

**AmericanGirl** magazine

8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562



Open up the barn door and  
kick out the **hay**.  
We are the girls of the **U-S of A!**

Turn on the radio and what do  
you **hear?**  
**Elvis Presley** singin' a **cheer**.

We're gonna **F-I-G-H-T!**  
We're gonna **F-I-G-H-T!**  
We're gonna fight, fight, fight  
for **victory!**

One, two, three, **four**,  
No ball ever hits the **floor!**

Bump it, set it, **spike it!**  
That's the way we **like it!**



**A**

To the tune of "The Addams Family" theme song:  
We're mighty and we're **vicious**.  
They say we're **superstitious**.  
We always get our **wishes**,  
The mighty (name of team)!

Dunh-dunh-dunh-dunh (snap)  
**Neat!**  
Dunh-dunh-dunh-dunh (snap)  
**Complete!**  
Dunh-dunh-dunh-dunh  
Dunh-dunh-dunh-dunh  
Dunh-dunh-dunh-dunh  
**We can't be beat!**




**Hi-ho, hi-ho! It's off the blocks we go.**  
We swim so fast, you'll never last,  
**Hi-ho, hi-ho, hi-ho, hi-ho!**

**B**

Coca **Cola**,  
Pepsi **Cola**,  
Royal **Crown!**  
You've gotta **mesmerize 'em**,  
**Hypnotize 'em**,  
Knock 'em all **down!**

Sixty-eight is her number,  
Jaime is her **name**,  
And she's one of the reasons  
We're gonna win this **game!**

Look to the East,  
Look to the **West**.  
Look at Gracie  
'Cause she's the **best!**



**C**

**Popcorn! Peanuts!**  
**Onions! Soup!**  
We wanna score a goal!  
**Whoop-whoop-de-doop!**

We ain't bad,  
We ain't **lucky!**  
Gonna drive you 'round  
Like a pickup **trucky!**  
**Vroom, vroom!** (clap, clap, clap)  
**Vroom, vroom!** (clap, clap, clap)

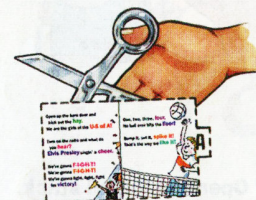


**D**

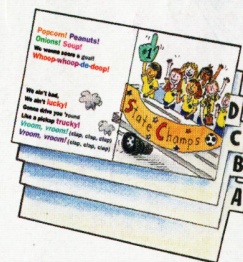
# Mini Book

Follow these directions  
to make a Mini Book full  
of cheers!

**1** Cut out each pair of  
pages only on the dotted  
lines. Be sure to cut  
around the tabs marked  
with the letters A, B, C,  
and D.



**2** Stack the pages on  
top of one another in the  
order shown below, with  
the letters on the tabs  
facing up.



Continued





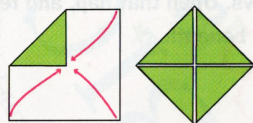


# AG's Cootie Catchers

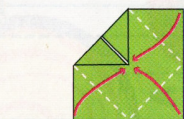
Want to start a conversation or predict someone's funny future? Tuck our Cootie Catchers in your pocket. Next time you're with a pal, bring one out for instant fun!

## How to Fold a Cootie Catcher

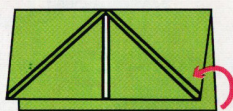
1. Carefully cut out the square. Fold and unfold it in half diagonally in both directions to make an X. Place the square **picture-side down**.



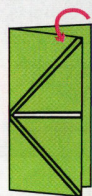
2. Fold each corner point into the center.



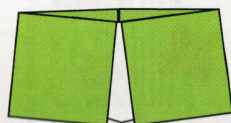
3. Flip so that flaps are facedown. Then fold each corner into the center.



4. Fold in half this way to crease.



5. Then unfold and fold in half the other way.

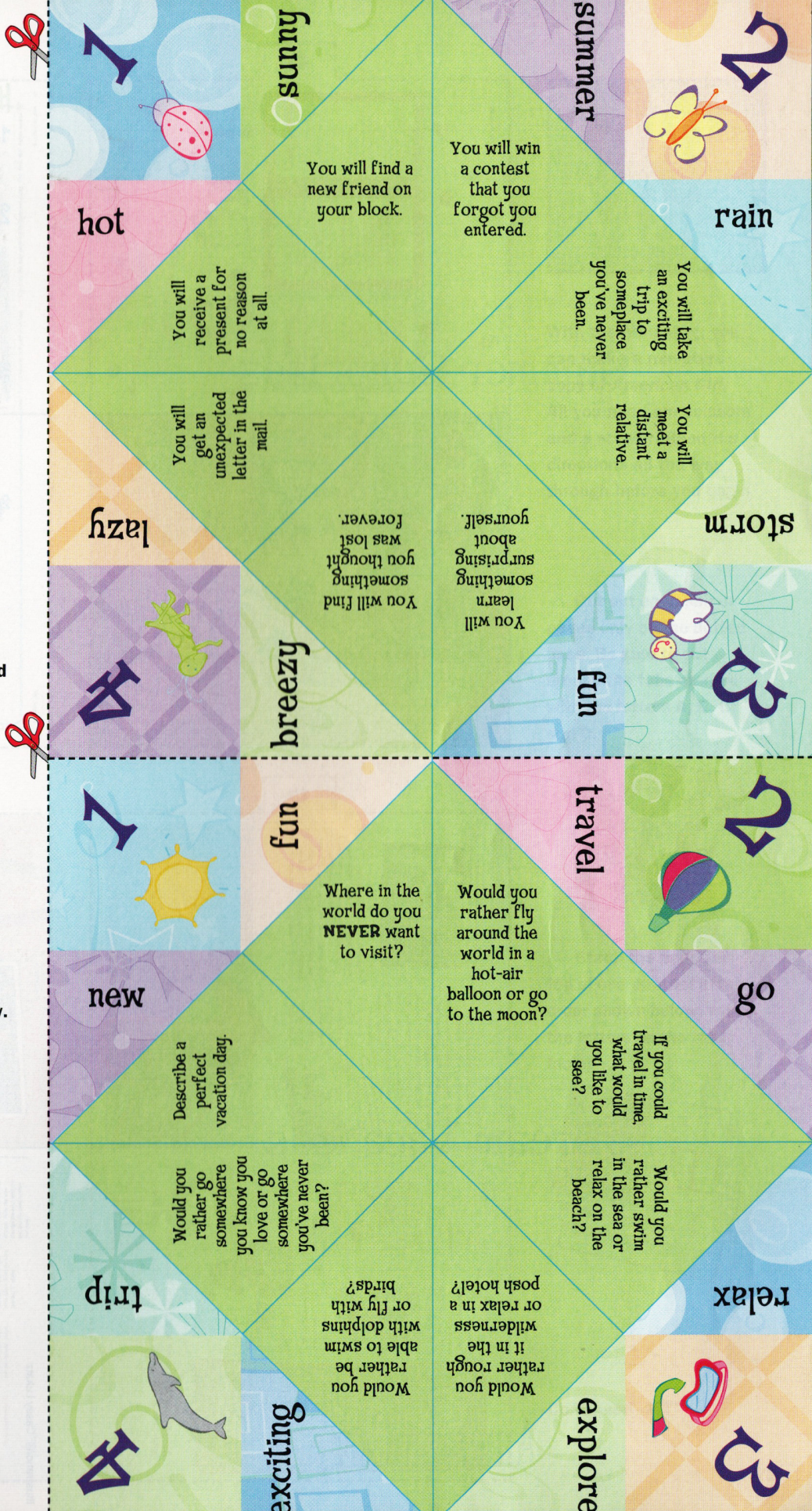


6. Stick both thumbs and pointer fingers into the four pockets. Push all the pockets to a point to begin playing.

pointer fingers  
in the back  
pockets

thumbs go  
in the front  
pockets

See other side  
for how to play!





## Summer Surprises

AmericanGirl®

## Dream Vacations

AmericanGirl®

### How to Play

1. Insert your fingers and thumbs under the numbered flaps on the Cootie Catcher.
2. Ask a friend to choose a number from one of the outside flaps. Open and close your fingers that number of times, moving your fingers front to back and then sideways.
3. Have your friend choose one of the words on the inside of the Cootie Catcher. Spell out the word, opening and closing your fingers with each letter.
4. Have your friend pick one of the words that shows. Open that flap, and read the message beneath. ★







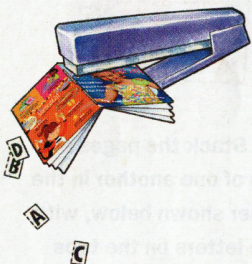


# Mini Mag

**3** Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. The cover of the magazine should now be on top. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat.



**4** Open the folded stack. Staple along the center line. Cut off the tabs, and you're done!



## Big Hearts, Small World

1 I've helped people when I can," says Robert L. ...

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## The Giggie Gang

### A-Mazing Mail

The Giggie Gang opens the mailbox and finds their names, ...

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## HELP!

Dear American Girl ...

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## American Girl

23 Ways to Get Wet ...

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We were swimming in a sea of colorful bathing suits for our models to wear during the "Big Splash" photoshoot. Vote for your favorites at "Fun for Girls" at [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com).

Did you like the Rainbow of Smoothies? Check out "Fun for Girls" at [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) and design your own recipe cards.



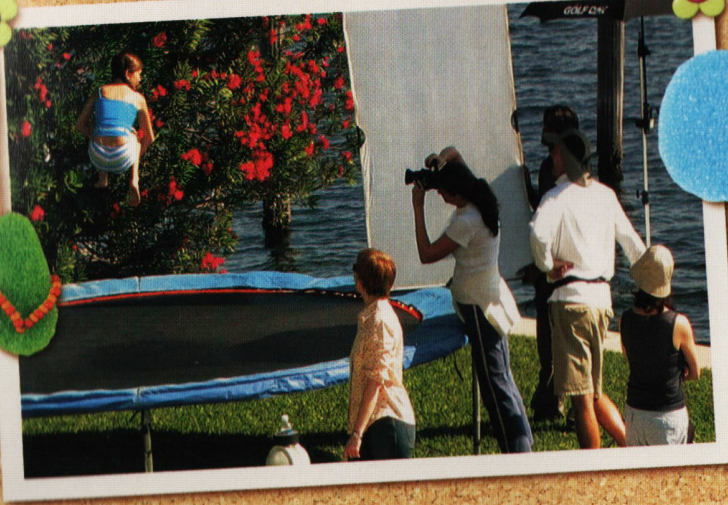
To get the perfect opening shot for "Big Splash," Reyzin, age 10, jumped on a trampoline, pretending like she was doing a cannonball into the pool. It was easier to have her jump on the trampoline than to have her jump off a diving board over and over again. Way to go, Reyzin!

# Behind the Scenes

AG's first jumbo issue was jam-packed with lots of sunny, summer fun!



The AG staff went wild coloring the "Jungle Jam" poster. We hope you have as much fun coloring it as we did!



Thanks to Stephanie C., age 12, from Ohio, we got a great craft idea for "So Cute!" Her "Stick Puppets" were just what we needed to make the piece complete.

For more summertime fun, check out "Fun for Girls" at [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com).



## New School?

We'll tell you what you need to know  
about starting middle school!

## Good Mmmorning!

Yummy waffle toppings  
you won't be able to resist

For lots more fun,  
visit [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com)!  
Find something new  
in "To Do Today!"

# American Girl®

Coming up in the September/October issue

## Happy Halloween

What a treat! Fun ways  
to celebrate a spooky day

## Friends Forever

Check out our new department  
all about friendship!

## Real Survivors

Great advice from girls who have  
gone through tough times

## Wow!

Plus a whole new look for AG  
that we think you'll really like!





A young orangutan with bright orange, shaggy fur is hanging from a vertical tree branch. The orangutan is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dense, out-of-focus green forest. The image is presented as a page from a spiral-bound notebook, with the metal spiral binding visible along the left edge.

# Just Hangin' Out

American Girl





AG's  
**Jungle Jam**  
Poster  
Color your own  
wild scene!